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AGAWAM

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SCHOOL BUDGET

Supt.: Salaries are driving 2.7% hike in spending

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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Officials applaud district's 'conservative' FY '16 budget

Salary increases are the driving factor in a proposed fiscal 2016 school budget that's \$1 million higher than this year's.

The budget subcommittees for the School Committee and City Council convened Tuesday night to hear Superintendent William Sapelli propose an operating budget next year of \$41,030,656, an

increase of 2.7 percent from this year's budget, or \$1,078,133.

The proposed hike is far lower than last year's increase. In 2015, contractual obligations and other district needs led Sapelli to raise his budget nearly 5 percent. This year, Sapelli said the district did everything possible to keep the increase to a minimum.

"We took a long look at our

numbers this year," said Sapelli. "We had a lot of needs last year and the town was very good in helping us, so we committed to being a lean as we possibly can."

Of the \$1,078,133 proposed increase, a contracted 1.5 percent pay raise for teaching staff accounts for all but \$41,283. Some new positions required for special education are also included. Sa-

pelli also said the district is absorbing three kindergarten teacher salaries in the proposed budget because they are no longer being cover by a grant.

Sapelli said the district is trying to end the practice of hiring teachers based on grant funding.

"We have learned it is not a good idea to use grants to fund positions," said Sapelli. "The grants

continue to dry up and we either have to cut the position or absorb the salary. We have been working these grant positions into budget the past few years before, so we don't lose them when grants run out."

The kindergarten teachers supplied by grants were from Agawam's switch to full-day kindergarten.

Of the more than \$1 million

BUDGET | page 6

Egg white



The eggs and baskets — and winter jackets — may have come in every color, but the sky was full of white. At center, Mason McCaughey braves a light snowfall in pursuit of the candy-filled eggs at the town's Easter egg hunt March 28, at Agawam High School. More photos on pages 12-13. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY KIMBERLY HATCH

GRANGER SCHOOL

Huge turnout to see students' 'Shining Stars'

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

When Kaitlyn Corey learned she had been picked as the "Shining Star" in her sister's life, the 22 year-old former Agawam resident wanted to cry.

Corey was among hundreds of other "Shining Stars" who were honored by the Granger School Parent-Teacher Organization at a dinner on March 25. Kindergarten through grade four students at the school picked one person in their lives who stood out above the rest and then wrote why they chose that person.

Corey's sister, Rachel Obegenski, 8, wrote that Corey "is a really good sister to us. She is thoughtful, loving, and helpful." A paraprofessional at a Farmington, Conn., school, Corey now lives in Harwinton, Conn. She drove nearly an hour to



Granger Elementary School paraprofessional Beth O'Neill takes a photo of Chanel Sabol, 7, and her "Shining Star," Steve Sabol, at the PTO's Shining Star Night on March 25. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

STAR | page 10

TALENT COMPETITION

Tefts sings to victory in 'Idol' finale

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Last Saturday night, the Springfield Turnverein concluded its first-ever "Agawam Idol" competition and crowned Miriam Tefts as its first winner.

Tefts, a Southwick resident, dazzled the crowd with two creative performances which included some interesting song choices and a wild wardrobe, and was the favorite of the four-judge panel, which included Mayor Richard Cohen.

The sixth and final round of the competition included six finalists, whittled down from 20 at the beginning.

Joe Labreque, chairman of entertainment for the Turnverein, said he and the rest of the club were thrilled with how well the competition turned out.

"We got great support from the community and from the contestants who participated," said Labreque.

At the finale, each of the six contestants filled up tables with supporters.

The other finalists included second place finisher Alexis Kupiec of Agawam, third place finisher Celine Lopes of Monson, Faith Rheault of Agawam, Samantha Myburgh of Sunderland and Kelly Ann Ouellette of Feeding Hills.

The final round of competition saw each competitor choosing a song and followed by a second performance chosen for them. In addition to the finalists, the judges were also asked to sing, and they received feedback from the finalists.

"It's just been a fun competition," said Labreque. "We got

IDOL | page 6



Miriam Tefts



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24 PAGES

Tickets available for ziti dinner

The Friends of the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., will host a ziti and meatball dinner Tuesday, April 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. Coffee and tea are included.

Donation is \$7 for adults if purchased before April 6 and \$10 at the door. Cost for children is \$4. The event will also include a bake sale.

For more information, call Emile Cote at 413-335-9440. To purchase tickets, call the Senior Center at 413-821-0604.

Are You Old News?



Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to aan@turley.com. Please include your first and last name.

Last week's photo: Correctly identifying Bob Hersey was Lou Scherpa.



City Council meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.
Monday, April 6, 7 p.m.

- A. Roll call
- B. Moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Citizen's speak time
- D. Minutes
- 1. Regular council meeting – March 16, 2015
- E. Declaration from council president
- F. Presentation of Petitions and Resolutions
- G. Report of council committees
- H. Elections
- I. Public hearings
- J. Old business
- 1. TOR-2015-3- An Ordinance to amend Chapter 103 of the Code of the town of Agawam (Mayor) (2 of 2 readings) (Referred to Legislative Committee)
- 2. TOR-2015-4- An Ordinance to amend the Code of the town of Agawam by adding Chapter 178 Fingerprint-based Criminal Record Background Checks (Mayor) (2 of 2 readings) (Referred to Legislative Committee)
- 3. TO-2015-15- Budgetary Transfer of \$18,000.00 from DPW Wastewater Professional Services (#22542-52190) to Wastewater Overtime (#22541-51030) for insufficient funds due to extreme weather and emergency standby overtime coverage. (Mayor) (Referred to Finance Committee)
- K. New business: Unavailable at press time.
- L. Any other matter that may legally come before the city council.
- Adjournment.

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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New bus needs more runs, businesses tell Mayor

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Half a year after bus route changes that gave the Agawam Industrial Park its own dedicated route, a few business leaders say there's still work to be done.

Members of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce brought their complaints about the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority's new Red-14E route to a "Coffee with the Mayor" event last month. The route was created last fall to serve areas of Agawam, including the industrial park on Garden Street, that were being removed from the Red-14 bus that serves Feeding Hills and Springfield Street.

Red-14E runs only four round-trips per day between Agawam and Springfield, and the times don't match up with shift changes at many businesses, said John Weiss, president of the Chamber of Commerce. The result is that employees don't take the bus, and prospective employees don't consider working in Agawam.

"People aren't taking jobs over there because they don't have transportation," said Weiss.

Mary MacInnes, administrator of the PVTa, said this week that the level of service to the industrial park is comparable to what existed under the former schedule. She acknowledged that fixed-route bus service in Agawam — less densely populated than urban centers like Holyoke and Springfield — is a challenge for her agency.

One potential solution, said MacInnes, is to serve Agawam with a “flex route,” a concept the transit agency is currently testing in South Hadley. In addition to its fixed route, a flex-route bus serves several defined pickup points in its community on a by-request basis. Riders would call a request line two hours in advance. The bus

would only serve these stops if requested.

Town Clerk Richard Theroux, who serves as Agawam's representative to the PVTA Advisory Board, told business leaders in March that new or expanded service in town is a hard sell. Everyone wants more bus service, he said. What the PVTA finds, in towns like Agawam, according to Theroux, is that everyone wants the bus to be there as a backup plan in case the car breaks down — but as long as the car is running, employees drive to work, leaving the buses empty.

Theroux said he would bring the business community's concerns to PVTA leadership.

MacInnes said the PVTa continues to count Red-14 and Red-14E as the same route, and does not have separate ridership figures for the industrial park service. Combined, the two routes average about 25 riders per hour, she said, which “falls in the middle of all routes” in the 24-community region served by the agency.

Between July 2014 and February of this year, combined monthly ridership in the two routes has ranged from 8,472 (February) to 13,282 (September). In all but one month during this span, November, ridership was higher than in the same month one year ago.

According to the published schedule, the PVTa's Red-14E bus serves Silver Street with just one weekday morning run, from Springfield at 6:30 a.m. to the Agawam Industrial Park at 7 a.m., then back. The bus has two early-afternoon runs, with Agawam departures at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., and one late bus departing at 7 p.m., arriving in Springfield at 7:25 p.m. The industrial park bus does not run on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays. Red-14E also stops at the Heritage Hall nursing home complex on its way to and from Springfield, and MacInnes said



Michele Brennan, right, makes a point about bus service during “Coffee with the Mayor” on March 3 while Mayor Richard Cohen, standing, listens. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

the route will expand this summer to serve Six Flags New England, as well.

The other public bus in Agawam, running between Feeding Hills and Springfield, follows a more consistent all-day schedule. Red-14 leaves Springfield on a roughly hourly basis 6:30 a.m. to 6:10 p.m. and Feeding Hills 7 a.m. to 6:50 p.m. on weekdays. The schedule on Saturdays is similar, but with a later start time and earlier final run. On Sundays and most holidays, the bus runs 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., hourly, between Springfield and Walnut Street Extension, just over the bridge from West Springfield.

Not so fast, food

Cohen also updated business leaders on several ongoing economic and infrastructure projects in Agawam, such as

the planned 2017 roadwork in Feeding Hills Center and the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge, and the proposed redevelopment of Walnut Street Extension. One of his other economic development priorities, he said, is to bring more retail shops into the former Food Mart plaza on Springfield Street. In particular, he said, he has reached out to several fast food and coffee shop chains. Their response is that there's not enough traffic along Springfield Street to support a national chain store, Cohen said. He said he hoped work on the bridge, and the reconfiguration of the Springfield-Suffield-Main streets intersection, would help.

Hoppy Easter from

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Stars are shining all around

You'll have to excuse the residents of Feeding Hills — they're a little star-struck lately. For the past couple months, they've seen a steady progression of would-be singing stars coming and going at the Springfield Turnverein on North Westfield Street, and last week they saw an entire constellation assemble as Granger School pupils named the "Shining Stars" who light their lives. Both events — the Agawam Idol sing-off and the Granger PTO Shining Star Dinner — brightened up our day and strengthened our community. At the Turnverein, the audience only got larger as the field of Idol contestants got smaller. The local singing tournament, based on the television show "American Idol," concluded on Saturday with the crowning of Miriam Tefts, a Southwick resident, as the victor. An Agawam resident, Alexis Kupiec, finished second, and three other locals were among the six finalists, despite interest in the tournament from all over the Pioneer Valley.

Tefts received a cash prize and six hours of professional studio recording time. Kupiec received a cash prize. What the rest of us got out of it was just as valuable. Once upon a time, hearing music was a social event. Before the advent of the record player and the radio, the most common way to experience music was to hear amateurs sing it — your coworkers, your family, your friends ... and you. Undoubtedly, some people were better singers than others, but popular music was accessible to all, and was experienced in a very local way — in a way that's really only true for church music and perhaps some patriotic songs, these days.

In a mass media age when the Internet and national television networks deliver the same news, the same shows, the same music to Massachusetts as to California, Florida and even Alaska, the notion of local amateurs singing popular music to a local audience, once the norm, is now a novelty. The Turnverein deserves a round of applause for bringing this tradition back to Agawam, and doing it in such an entertaining way. There's already talk of a "Junior Idol" competition, and it will be interesting to see what else the Turnverein comes up with to follow the success of "Idol."

At the Granger School, we saw who the real stars of the community are — the moms and dads, big sisters and brothers, grandparents and other adults who inspire our town's children and, just as importantly, show them love. Each student at the school wrote an essay naming a "Shining Star," and the honorees were invited to one big pizza party.

It may be past the due date, but let's name a few Shining Stars of our own: the PTO, school principal and the faculty who came together to conceive of this event, plan it and make it a success. What could have been a simple essay assignment — "Someone Who Inspires Me," to be tacked on the classroom wall or stuck on the refrigerator next to "What I Did on My Vacation" and "My Favorite Season of the Year, and Why" — instead became a hometown awards ceremony, complete with its own version of paparazzi and the red carpet interview. That didn't happen all by itself. While we're taking time to give public recognition for the often unsung effort of raising a child, let's give a little public recognition to the often unsung effort of building a community.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.

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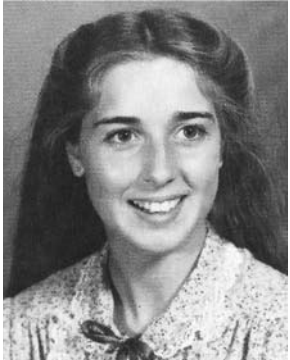
YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS



Kimberly Corriveau



Wendy Cripps



LeeAnn Sibilia

The Brownies' greatest-ever hockey game

This is the 167th column of Yesterday's Hometown News and right from the very first one, which was published on July 19, 2007, it has been a challenge to try to get Brownie girls into the stories as often as the boys. How do you keep track of the ones who get married and change their name? How do you recognize their children?



Walt Willard

On Thursday, March 12, I was checking out a book at the town library and got talking to the girl helping me. I was pretty sure she had been in my math class years ago. She said yes, she was. Her name back then was Wendy Cripps '83, but now it is Wendy McAnanama.

"The goalkeeper on the hockey team is your son, Connor?" I asked. She said yes again and I realized that for the last three months I had unknowingly been reading how her son had helped our team make it to the state final.

All that week I had been thinking about going to Boston. It was to be Agawam's first-ever game on Bruins ice and if we were to win, it would be our first state title in the same division as West Side. We had West Side's number this year. A state title on top of our Western Mass. title would be, as we used to say, frosting on the cake.

A phone call to LeeAnn (Sibilia) Rivest '82 that evening secured a seat for me on the Booster Club bus. Only 10 bucks. What a deal. No driving, gas, tolls or parking fees. LeeAnn's son Cam was one of our best hockey players and a captain, just as he had been in soccer back in the fall.

Sunday morning at 8:50 I grabbed the empty front seat on the bus. Mayor Richard Cohen, guidance counselor Alan Cohen, Jay and Mike Passerini and Billy Wysocki all said hello as they went by. The girl in the seat behind me was former student Kim (Corriveau) Housman '85, whose son Zach played forward on the team. I started a list of players who were sons of Brownies. By the time we reached Boston, this story was a definite.

The seating in TD Garden was general admission, so I took a seat behind the Agawam fans on the 50-yard line, the red line in hockey. Seeing our fans' enthusiasm was worth the price of admission. Hundreds in orange and brown. When the Watertown

fans chanted, "We can't hear you," the Brownies replied twice as loud with, "Yes, you can."

To my right was Jim Curran, whose son Seamus was our best scorer for the season and red-hot so far in the tournament. Surely he would be a marked man.

As you probably have read here in the Advertiser News, we lost 2-1, but we were not outplayed. Our goalkeeper, Wendy's son, played an excellent game, only allowing two nearly perfect shots. Seamus Curran did score for us but the Watertown goalkeeper was slightly "more excellent" than Connor. Mrs. Nardi wouldn't like that description, but it works for me.

Back home in the next few days, the game was analyzed by the locals and the consensus was that we had the better team but the flight and bouncing of the puck can make or break you in hockey. Nobody should be disappointed in our being the second best Division 3 team in Massachusetts.

The following players are sons of former Brownies. For some it was dad, for some it was mom and for at least two, it was both parents — Anthony, Nico and John Passerini, Seamus Curran, Joe Mercadante, Cam Rivest, Zach Circosta, Elijah Bard, Don Ingham, Zach Housman, Connor McAnanama, Preston Kozub, Keith Ruby and Kyle Toti.

Here is why I think the hockey game on March 15 was the greatest hockey game in Brownie history. Bill Sapelli, our superintendent of schools, Dave Stratton our athletic director, our head coach Rich Feeley and two assistant coaches, John DeMont and Bob Johnson, all played hockey for AHS. The team had at least 14 players that are sons of Brownies. We played on Boston Bruins ice for the first time ever and nearly won the state championship. Our team is made up of Brownies who all live in Agawam and hopefully they will someday buy a house here and raise a few more Brownies, just as their parents did.

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.

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AGAWAM

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Weeklong fundraiser to benefit Alex Scafuri

The Ice Cream Shoppe, 493 Springfield St., Agawam (in the Partner's Plaza), is hosting a fundraiser now through through Saturday, April 4, to benefit Alex Scafuri.

Scafuri, a sophomore at Agawam High School, was critically injured recently after being hit by a car on Springfield Street. A portion of the weekly sales will be donated to help defray medical expenses.

In addition, raffle tickets may be purchased at the Ice Cream Shoppe. A drawing will be held April 4 at 6 p.m. All proceeds from this raffle will go directly to Scafuri's family. Donations are also being accepted.

For more information or to donate an item or service for the raffle, contact Susan Thibault at 413-786-5960 or stop by the Ice Cream Shoppe.

'Talk trash' at the Agawam Public Library

The Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., will host "Trash Talkin' with Nancy Bobskill (and Helga): Community Based Solutions to Reducing Our Trash Footprint and Keeping Our Town Clean," Thursday, April 9, at 7 p.m.

The public is invited to join the former Agawam High School teacher and current environmental blogger and her chicken purse, Helga, to discover how simple actions decrease waste that builds up in landfills, incinerators, rivers and oceans. Learn why these solutions not only help humans, but other animals and their habitats as well.

The first 50 people (one per household) that sign up and attend this event will receive a free kitchen compost bucket, courtesy of the Agawam Department of Public Works.

To register for this event, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

Children's programs at the Agawam Public Library

The following children's programs have been announced by the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

Music Together with Rachel: Friday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. or Thursday, April 30, 10:30 a.m. For children from birth to age 6 with their grown-up.

Meet Toto the Tornado Kitten: Thursday, April 23, 1 p.m. For ages 4 and older. Listen to Toto's story, then meet the famous cat and his minder, Jonathan. Donations of canned dog or cat food appreciated.

Movie Matinee: Friday, April 24, 3 p.m. No registration required. Bring your favorite stuffed puppy to watch an oldie but goodie, "101 Dalmatians." This animated Disney classic is based on the children's story by Dodie Smith. Rated G; 80 minutes. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

To register, visit www.agawamlibrary.org and go to the children's page, or call the children's desk at 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

Panel reviews draft blight law, discusses properties

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Agawam City Councilor James Cichetti has unveiled the first draft of a blight ordinance to clean up "eyesore" properties in town.

Cichetti held a meeting of the council's five-member Legislative Subcommittee on Monday night at the Agawam Public Library. He said his proposal would give town officials more options to work with property owners on fixing blighted properties.

Two weeks ago, Cichetti said he and Councilor George Bitzas had begun working with Mayor Richard Cohen and City Solicitor Vincent Gioscia on a draft of an ordinance. At Monday's meeting, the draft completed by Gioscia was given to councilors to read and consider changes before a final draft went back for legal approval.

Cichetti said Gioscia used a template of another city's blight ordinance which defines blighted properties and gives details on how the issues should be handled and what remedies are available to town officials in the health and inspection services departments.

In addition to Cichetti and Bitzas,

councilors Robert Rossi, Gina Letellier, and Paul Cavallo each were able to weigh in on the ordinance. Councilors Donald Rheault and Joseph Mineo also attended the meeting to listen to the discussion.

Letellier looked over parts of the draft, and said she favored moving forward with an ordinance. Like the other councilors, she did want to read completely through the draft and have the ability to make comments before moving forward. She also said she has received complaints about a particular property in town.

"About once a month, I will get an email complaining about a blight property on Main Street," said Letellier. "This is definitely something we need. It gives specific deadlines and specific authorities to handle these types of properties."

Cichetti is hoping to garner more feedback from the councilors at the next Legislative Subcommittee meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday, April 16.

Cichetti also said during his meeting with staff from the state attorney general's office that he was advised the town needed a blight ordinance. Springfield has recently adopted a similar ordinance.

While a few properties were mentioned briefly at this week's meeting, Cichetti told the committee a list of blight properties was being prepared by the Inspection Services Department. Several weeks ago, town officials took a tour of the town with blight properties that had been identified. At this week's meeting, Cichetti shared several current blight properties that he said were identified by Inspection services. He said more may be identified in the future.

Topping the list is the Games and Lanes property at 346-350 Walnut Street Ext., which has been a prominent fixture in the news because of contamination and parallel efforts to redevelop the site and the neighborhood around it. However, Cichetti pointed out, there are other properties that have been in poor condition longer than Games and Lanes. Among them are the old Cesar's at 314 Silver St., a property has been in disrepair for more than 50 years, Rheault said.

Other properties on the list are: 54 Lincoln St., 30 Royal Lane, 119 Cooley St., 46-48 Cooley St., 1186 Main St., 1 Pine St. and 657-659 Mill St.

CALL TO THE CAUSE

What to be when facing adversity

I've yet to meet any person who enjoys or looks forward to adversity. When we think about adversity, human nature usually leads us to negative thoughts that cause fear and anxiety, depending on the circumstances we're facing or anticipating.

There are two realities we must accept as we travel through this journey we call life. The first reality is that if we are to accomplish great things, we should expect and prepare for great obstacles. A writer once said, "Nothing great has ever happened without great challenges." Reaching for greatness in any capacity at any level invites challenges organically with no special effort; greatness and obstacles are joined at the proverbial hip.

The second reality is that if we are to make a real lasting impact on others, we should condition ourselves to face real opposition from others. As pure as our hearts may be with the greatest intentions for the benefit of others, there will always be some opposition.

Some may ask, "Why is this?" The answer is that everyone doesn't think the same, nor are all the hearts and intentions of those involved always pure and sincere. In many cases, it's less of an intangible issue of heart and intentions, and more around dichotomy as to approach, methodology or strategy. Whatever the case may be, there are four things we must be in order to overcome the adversity caused by great obstacles and real opposition:

First and foremost, be honest with yourself and others.

Dishonesty is only a temporary fix that never lasts. The worse person to lie to is you. The second worse person to lie to is another person.

Be consistent and stay on message. Your worst enemy and strongest detractor may never respect you or what you stand for, but they will almost always respect your consistency. You may even win some of them because of it.

Next, be a good listener. Open both your ears and your mind. Often, passion for agendas causes acrimony and trepidation. If the room is full of good intentions and shared goals, methods and styles can and should be negotiated. If the what is the same, the how has a better chance of becoming a reality. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.

Lastly, be decisive. Making a decision to not move forward with a particular plan or abrogating a relationship can be extremely difficult, as most of us would rather take the path of least resistance so that we'll feel better or be happier in the end. What we should seek however, is satisfaction that we did the right thing. Feeling good and being happy is something we should all desire, but satisfaction and peace of mind should rule the day.

Kirk Ray Smith is the president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, which operates a branch at 63 Springfield St., Agawam. To view Smith's past articles, visit www.springfieldy.org/category/news/president-ceo-editorials.



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Alexis Kupiec of Agawam sings during the finals of Agawam Idol, held March 28 at the Springfield Turnverein in Feeding Hills.



Faith Rheault of Agawam enjoys her experience in the final round. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

IDOL ■ from page 1

great response from the people trying out and they were really committed to this competition.”

The competition was tough at first, he said, because the poor winter weather delayed tryouts and then delayed the first couple of rounds of competition. A few people dropped out before it started, but once it got going, the competition was a lot of fun.

“We are thinking about doing it again later this year,” said Labreque. “We are getting a lot of requests to do a Junior Idol utilizing kids under 16 as our contestants. We need to get our bearings together, but we think it is going to happen.”

The money raised from the entrants as well as donations made throughout the competition will be used to fund scholarships for Agawam High School graduates.

For her victory, Tefts received \$250 and six hours of professional recording time in a studio. Kupiec received \$150 cash and Lopes received four tickets to a future Springfield Falcons hockey game and a \$25 gift card.

Tefts felt the risks she took with her song choices helped spell her victory, and she had fun with the entire competition.

“It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed the getting the chance to sing for everyone,” said Tefts.

Rheault, a recent graduate of Agawam High School, said she entered the competition because she enjoyed singing and it was a local competition. Rheault is a student at Westfield State University currently. She was well-known at Agawam High for her renditions of “The Star-Spangled Banner” at several of Agawam’s big softball games.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

Monday, April 6: Lasagna and meatballs, garden salad, apples.
Tuesday, April 7: Roast turkey, apple cranberry stuffing, squash, birthday cake.
Wednesday, April 8: Low-sodium hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, diced pears.
Thursday, April 9: Lemon pepper baked chicken, mashed potatoes, broccoli, mandarin oranges.
Friday, April 10: Tomato and rice soup, tuna on whole-wheat, cucumber dill salad, pudding.

Calendar of Events

Monday, April 6: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., 9 a.m.-noon, Interim Health Information Table; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Free Hearing Test with Ear Masters, Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo, Seminar with John Dee (Veterans Hall); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.
Tuesday, April 7: 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting Class, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., PACE; 12:30 p.m., La-

dies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie; 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 5 p.m., Friends Spaghetti Dinner; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.
Wednesday, April 8: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Ballroom Lessons, Scrabble, Line Dance Jamboree (\$5); 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 Installation Banquet (no meeting); 2 p.m., CPA Jack Welch Available (by appt.); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.
Thursday, April 9: Free Tax Prep (by appointment only; last day); 9:30 a.m., Quilting, Information Table with Trish from Baystate Rehab.; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art Class; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch, Evening Line Dancing.
Friday, April 10: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; 10 a.m., Tai Chi; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (by invitation); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

BUDGET ■ from page 1

in salary obligations, nearly 40 percent, or \$418,000, comes in special education.

Sapelli showed approximately \$133,000 in cuts to operations in areas such as supplies and other school building items. He says some schools will feel the tightening of the belt, but the district will do the best it can to get through the next school year.

He did commit the district to \$85,600 in technology funding to upgrade servers throughout the district to add redundancy and improve overall service. Sapelli says there are nearly 4,000 devices, such as laptops, tablets and desktop computers, used district-wide.

School Committee Vice Chairman Anthony Bonavita praised the budget, saying it was what the School Committee was seeking.

“We asked for a more conservative budget this year,” said Bonavita. “We think the superintendent has done an excellent job achieving that.”

City Councilor Paul Cavallo, who leads the council’s school budget subcommittee, agreed. He said he sympathized with the School Department.

“The role of the schools has changed with so many things that are mandated now,” said Cavallo. “The costs in special education are huge, but we have to have them. But I think the school district has done an excellent job trying to reduce costs.”

Sapelli said the schools have had to be careful about spending because of out-of-district placements that are special education students and cost the town thousands of dollars in the middle of the school year.

“By law, if they live in our district and they have special needs, we have to pay for them,” said Sapelli. “Unfortunately, we cannot plan the budget for things like that.”

On a separate topic, Sapelli told the two subcommittees he is asking for \$40,000 in his capital budget for a feasibility study for the Early Childhood Center.

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Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

I have been a volunteer music director at the Agawam Senior Center since September 1990 and have enjoyed great times directing various music activities over the years with many great people.

When I turned over many things to my “so-called assistants” this year with the Concert of Love Songs coming up April 17, things “bloomed” to unbelievable heights. Attendees with have to see it to believe it in the printed program, but will really enjoy the show as well.

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Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 77 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week of March 23-30.

On March 23 at 8:15 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for good intent call, other.

On March 24 at 3:11 p.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for public service.

On March 24 at 7:39 p.m., the department responded top Gunn Geary Lane for public service.

On March 24 at 11:29 p.m., the department responded to Walnut Street for building fire.

On March 24 at 3:41 p.m., the department responded to Sharon Lane for detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

On March 25 at 8:26 a.m., the department responded to Silver Street for unintentional transmission of alarm, other.

On March 25 at 1:07 p.m., the department responded to Valley Brook Road for oil or other combustible liquid spill.

On March 25 at 10:33 p.m., the department re-

sponded to Vadnais Street for electrical wiring / equipment problem, other.

On March 26 at 7:15 a.m., the department responded to Southwick Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On March 29 at 11:21 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for special outside fire, other.

On March 29 at 12:08 p.m., the department responded to North Ramah Circle for building fire.

On March 30 at 6:02 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional.

On March 30 at 8:44 a.m., the department responded to Corey Colonial for good intent call, other.

On March 30 at 9 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for good intent call, other.

On March 30 at 10:01 a.m., the department responded to Southwick Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

On March 30 at 10:14 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 290 calls for service from March 23 to March 30. The department made five arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, March 24

William L. Gray, 50, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 28, Agawam, was arrested on charges of disturbing the peace, threatening to commit a crime, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Mark Jachym, 45, of 37 E. Silver St., Apt. 2, Westfield, was arrested on a charge of violation of an abuse prevention order.

Wednesday, March 25

Carl E. Muldrow, 42, of 186 Buckingham St., Springfield, was arrested on charges of receiving stolen property over \$250 and larceny under \$250 by false pretense.

Friday, March 27

Susan M. Garrett, 42, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 30, Agawam, was arrested on charges of trespassing and disturbing the peace.

Monday, March 30

Sara Manarite, 30, of 326 Canon Circle, Springfield, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

Dog dies in Ramah Circle North blaze

A dog died, but there were no other injuries, in a second fire in Agawam on Sunday, March 29. At approximately 12:20 p.m., the Fire Department responded to 85 Ramah Circle North for a report of smoke coming from a building at T.J. Body Services. According to a department statement, a passerby saw the smoke and notified the Fire Department. Arriving units found a commercial auto repair facility that was heavily charged with smoke. Firefighters launched a quick, coordinated fire attack

and brought the fire under control in less than 15 minutes. The building sustained minor fire and smoke damage. A dog that was in the building at the time of the fire perished in the blaze.

Fire Chief Alan Sirois said the fire appears to have started in the office area, and does not appear suspicious. The cause of the blaze is under investigation by the Agawam Detective Bureau, Agawam Fire Department, and State Police investigators assigned the state fire marshal's office.

Walnut St. fire displaces eight

By Andrew Mansfield
aan@turley.com

The fire that ripped through a Walnut Street home last week was caused by improperly disposed smoking materials, fire officials said.

Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois and Deputy State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey said the March 24 fire, which displaced eight people from the multi-family home at 33 Walnut St., began on a couch in a basement den, where a man fell asleep smoking.

Sirois said the first call for the fire was received at 11:29 p.m., with personnel arriving on the scene five minutes later. The fire was extinguished by 9 a.m. the following day. The investigation concluded at 3:30 p.m.

The man who fell asleep in the basement received minor injuries in the fire. He was taken to a hospital and later released. The smoke alarms worked, and one of the residents helped to make sure everyone got out safely. Agawam firefighters rescued one man from the third floor who was not alerted by the smoke detectors and could not be awakened by other occupants.

The fire displaced eight residents, some of whom are receiving help from the Red

Cross with housing and personal needs.

One firefighter was injured. Sirois said last week that the injured firefighter is doing “fine” and was “released on the scene.”

Sirois described the building's condition as a “total loss,” which will require the remaining structure to be razed. He said there has been no official estimate released on the cost of the damage yet, but believes it could be in the range of \$300,000.

It took 29 firefighters to fight the fire, with 10 fire and ambulance vehicles deployed. The fire departments of West Springfield, Springfield and Westfield provided on-scene help, while Longmeadow provided coverage at Agawam fire stations.

According to a statement from the state Department of Fire Services, the building's balloon frame construction was a primary reason the fire traveled quickly, with the temperature rising to a “flashover” point of ignition that forced the fire crews to exit the building.

In that statement, Sirois said, “This was the type of fire where residential sprinklers would have made a huge difference in the safety of responding firefighters, reduced the damage to the building, and prevented displacement of the residents.”

Cutting torch sparks fatal fire

A man using an acetylene cutting torch died after accidentally setting himself on fire on Sunday.

According to the Agawam Fire Department, at approximately 11:20 a.m. on March 29, firefighters responded to 655 Cooper St. for a report of a fire. On arrival at the scene, the fire engine and ambulance crews encountered a man outside a garage who had sustained serious burns over a large part of his body. There was no damage to any structure. The man was transported to Baystate Medical Center and later died as a result of his injuries. The Agawam Fire Department on Monday declined to release the name of the man.

Investigators from the Agawam Detective Bureau, Agawam Fire Department and State Police investigators assigned to

the state fire marshal's office determined that the victim was operating an acetylene torch, cutting metal outdoors, when his clothing caught fire. The fire has been ruled accidental.

“The Agawam Fire Department is very sorry for the family's loss as a result of this tragic accident,” said Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

He went on to say that individuals engaging in “hot work” using torches and welding machines should wear proper protective clothing, keep a fire extinguisher nearby, and ensure that combustible items are away from the work area.

This incident marks the 18th fire-related fatality in the state this year. Sirois said it was the first fire death in Agawam in recent memory.

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In the Classroom

AHS seniors honored for outstanding academic success

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Agawam High School senior Haley Kozlak was happy to receive a sports letter for playing lacrosse. But when she received a letter for her academic accomplishments, she was ecstatic.

"Academics are definitely way more important to me. I've always put my school work before anything else," she said.

Kozlak was among 159 seniors — more than half of the 295 students in the Class of 2015 — who were honored recently for their outstanding academic achievements in high school.

The seniors received certificates and were awarded "Academic A's" at the March 24 School Committee meeting at the Doering School. With proud parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents and other relatives looking on, students were recognized for excelling in the classroom in much the same way that school athletes are rewarded with letters for excellence in sports.

The Academic A's — similar to sports letters — feature a large white "A" trimmed in orange with a yellow lamp of knowledge in the center. These high honors are presented each year to students who have maintained a 3.0 (B) cumulative grade-point average during their freshman, sophomore and junior years, as well as the first semester of their senior year.

"This award shows that what I've worked hard for during high school has paid off — it's like a reward," said Kozlak, who plans to major in business accounting at Southern New Hampshire University.

Ending on 'a high note'

Alyssa Eggleston expressed a similar sentiment after getting her Academic A.

"It's good to be recognized with this certificate and letter," she said. "It's very nice to end school on such a high note. It makes me feel I've achieved success in my high school career."

She said she was unaware of the Academic A's until she was notified that she would be receiving one. "I've always tried to do my personal best in school," she said. "I'm glad to get this honor, but I didn't start out in my freshman with that as one of my goals."

Eggleston, who will major in hospitality management at the University of New Hampshire, is seeking a career as an events planner: "I'm excited about going to college and preparing for a career that I will love doing."

Lauren Hartmann called the Academic A's the "big recognition" for all the hard work in high school. "It's a little nerve-racking now that high school is beginning to wrap up — but I'm looking forward to the future," she said. Hartmann added that while she wants to major in education she's still undecided about to where she will attend college.

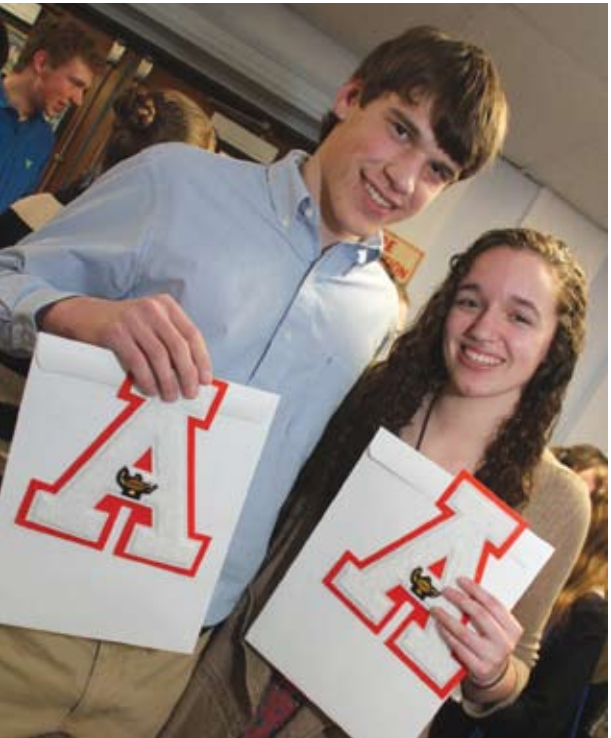
Classmate Cameron Czerpak, however, has a pretty good idea of where he will be going to college. "Most likely, I'll attend Union College in Schenectady, New York. It's sad that high school is almost over with, but I'm excited about going to college and exploring new places."

Czerpak said one his goals was to achieve academic success in high school.

"I knew as a freshman that if I worked I could maintain a high GPA throughout my four years," he said. "My hard



Haley Kozlak said the Academic A she received for her accomplishments in the classroom is more important to her than the sports letter she received for playing lacrosse.



Cameron Czerpak and Lauren Hartmann proudly hold their Academic A's.

work paid off with this award."

Former School Committee member Susan Pettazzoni is credited with originating the Academic A's. Fifteen years ago she thought it would be "a great idea" to honor seniors for their academic achievements the same way that some are honored for their sporting skills. Pettazzoni, who was on hand last week to help congratulate students, served on the committee from 1992 until 2006.

Her inspiration for the Academic A's came from a school in California. Pettazzoni proposed the award to the committee, and it was immediately approved. However, the concept was modified slightly by adding a requirement for the cumulative GPA criteria, to give students an incentive if they had a challenging semester.

AHS Principal Steve Lemanski presented the awards as Assistant Principal Thomas Schnepf read each student's name out loud. Some students were unable to attend the



Clutching her Academic A, Alyssa Eggleston stands proudly between her mother, Diane Eggleston (left), and her grandmother, Rose Palazzi. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



School Committee member Diane Juzba congratulates AHS senior William Bessette after he received his Academic A.

formal presentation, but even students who were absent received recognition by having their names read aloud at the presentation ceremony.

After receiving their certificates and Academic A's, students went through a receiving line that included School Committee members, school administrators, and city councilors George Bitzas, Paul Cavallo, James Cichetti, Joseph Mineo, Robert Rossi, Donald Rheault and Anthony Suffriti. They were joined by state Sen. Donald Humason and Pettazzoni.

A 'proud moment'

Mayor Richard Cohen, the School Committee chairman, said it's "a proud moment as we recognize these highly motivated students who are eligible to receive these Academic A's."

ACADEMIC | page 9

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'Academic A' awardees named

More than half of Agawam High School's senior class, 159 students, received "Academic A" awards this year. The honorees are: Nicolas Abodeeb, Orhan Ahmeti, Nicholas Antico, Gabriel Archambault, Alyssa Askins, Elijah Bard, Christopher Basile, Olivia Beauvais, Alison Bessette, William Bessette, Tahir Blair, Anastasiya Botnaru, Christene Brown, Brittany Busco, Dominic Calcasola, Shayne Castonguay, Lexi Cears, Richard Cears, Erika Chancellor, Nicole Christian, Zachary Circosta, William Conklin, Mark Connaughton, Timothy Cooper, Michael Costello, Seamus Curran, Cameron Czerpak, Mia Davidson, Deane Patrick, Amanda Delore, Elizabeth Depalo, Garrett Diduk, Daniel Dobek, Jacqueline Donahue, Skylar Downs, Dalton Drummond, Sabrina Dubiel, Jacob Duffus, Megan Dustin, Liya Dzyubenko, Alyssa Eggleston, Kali Evangelista, Carly Evelyn, Marisa Ewing, Rachel Fancy, Kaitlyn Fanning, Emily

Feid, Robert Fontaine, Anthony Frigo, Griffin Gadreault, Ashley Gage, Christopher Gage, David Gage, Katalina Gomez, Michael Goyette, Tara Graham, Sarah Graves, Teresa Graziano, Samantha Gregory, Monique Groux, Alyssa Guerette, Nicholas Hanchett, Lauren Hartmann, Alexandria Haupt, Tyler Heer, Paul Hotaling, Heather Howe, Diana Huynh, Alec Iannuzzi, Emily Jefferson, Sarah Kamukala, Taylor Kareta, Frederick Karl-Morin, James Karl-Morin, Dominic Kosior, Haley Kozlak, Carly LaBelle, Casandra Land, Daniel Lavoie, Katrina Laz, Christopher LaZazzera, Jeffrey Leclerc, Kristina Lemire, Tyler Loubier, Jared Lubarsky, Braden Lucia, Jordan Lunden, Brenden Mahoney, Khouloud Mandour, Raffaele Manzi, Matthew Mariani, Dylan Marshall, Kaitlyn Martin, Stephen Mateus, Kyla McGurn, Gregory McLaughlin, Angelina Melloni, Joseph Mercadante, Nathaniel Mickey, Ashley Micks, Marissa Miller,

Irina Mita, Makenna Moen, Melissa Montagna, Kayla Moquin, Ann Mozzer, Emily Murphy, Jesse Near, Jaclyn Neilsen, Gianna Nettis, Alissa O'Connell, Kristen Odell, Lindsey Opitz, Vincent Panuccio, Roshni Patel, Anna Pellegrino, Cory Pfau, Michael Pfau, Megan Phu, Haley Piotrowski, Jordan Reed, Michael Reed, Luke Rheault, James Ridenour, Lauren Rinaldi, Cameron Rivest, Rosaria Robidoux, Daniel Robie, Jennifer Root, Veronica Rubeck, Giovanni Russo, Sebastian Sarno, Benjamin Schiff, Allison Schwarz, Vincenzo Scuderi, Alissa Serra, Gianna Signorelli, Joseph Silva, Amanda Smith, Nicole Spafford, Jennifer Stempel, Andrew Strong, Alexandria Stuetzel, Jae Suk, Paul Taft, Kayla Tausendfreund, Mario Tedeschi, Brian Thomas, Joseph Thresher, Christina Verbetsky, Ellen Vyce, Lindsey Wassung, Ashley Webster, Macklen Wier, Eric Wolowicz, Philip Woods, Christopher Wyckoff and Zachary Wysocki.

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College Acceptances: John Colwell: Virginia Wesleyan College; Gianna Signorelli: University of Connecticut; Victoria Baranov: University of Hartford, Springfield College, Southern Connecticut State University; Michael Costello: Purdue University, Springfield College; Elizabeth Depalo: UMass Amherst, University of Connecticut, Christopher Newport University, Champlain College, Newbury College; Daniel Dobek: UMass Amherst, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Megan Dustin: UMass Amherst; Jacob Duffus: Northeastern University; Rachel Fancy: Suffolk University, Binghamton University, Bryant University, Clark University, UMass Dartmouth; Sarah Kamukala: Northeastern University; Brady Lucia: UMass Amherst, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Western New England University; Viktoriya Maklakova: American International College, Bay Path University, Holyoke Community College, Western New England University; April Lucia: Holyoke Community College; Erin Curran: Holyoke Community College; TJ Sibilia: Holyoke Community College; Jesse Near: Boston University, UMass Amherst, Quinnipiac University, University of Connecticut, UMass Boston.

Nurse's Aide Course: Professional Care Academy, 270 Main St., Agawam, has openings for this course. Students must be a high school graduate and can enroll in either a four- or five-week course followed by the completion of 116 clinical hours. Upon completion of the course, a home health aide certification will be earned. Books and uniform are included in the \$1,000 fee. One \$250 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior. If interested, call 413-391-7926 for more information or to enroll. See Ms. Sheehan in the Career Center if you have any further questions.

Academy Day: Congressman Richard E. Neal will be hosting this on April 26 at 12:30 p.m. at Westover Air Reserve Base, Wing Conference Center. This is an

opportunity to meet U.S. service academy representatives from West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy as well as representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), Norwich University and Mass Maritime Academy. Attendees will learn about academy life from cadets and midshipmen, as well as the nominations and appointments process for academies. Pre-registration is required for this event by April 3. Visit neal.house.gov for details and registration form.

Springfield National College Fair: NACAC invites students to the Big E on Sunday, April 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. Register for the college fair at www.gotomynycf.com. It will save you time by providing you with a personalized barcode that can be scanned at each booth rather than having to write your information multiple times. You may also view a list of participating institutions by clicking on the college fair link on the same website. Check the list often for updates.

STCC STEM Academy: Open to seniors with a minimum 2.00 GPA who are interested in pursuing a STEM career (science, technology, engineering or math field) and plan on attending STCC in the fall. This academy begins in the summer and is free for accepted participants. Program participants earn a \$400 stipend, free college courses, attend free field trips to learn more about STEM careers, hear from STEM experts and participate in hands-on activities with some of the STEM professors. Interested applicants must submit a STCC admissions application for the fall and a STEM Starter Academy application. The STEM Starter Academy application is available at www.stcc.edu/stemacademy/. Students must submit both applications by May 1.

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, April 6: Popcorn chicken with dipping sauce, Tater Tots, seasoned carrots, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, April 7: French toast sticks, hash browns, pork sausage links, diced peach cup, orange juice cup.

Wednesday, April 8: Ziti with meatballs, whole-wheat breadstick, steamed broccoli, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, April 9: Turkey grinder, pasta salad, Cape Cod Chips, fresh and chilled fruit.

Friday, April 10: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, baked cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, April 6: Popcorn chicken with dipping sauce, Tater Tots, seasoned carrots, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, April 7: French toast sticks, hash browns, pork sausage links, diced peach cup, orange juice cup.

Wednesday, April 8: Ziti with meatballs, whole-wheat breadstick, steamed broccoli, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, April 9: Turkey grinder, pasta salad, Cape Cod Chips, fresh and chilled fruit.

Friday, April 10: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, baked cookie.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, April 6: Popcorn chicken with dipping sauce, Tater Tots, seasoned carrots, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, April 7: French toast sticks, hash browns, pork sausage links, diced peach cup, orange juice cup.

Wednesday, April 8: Ziti with meatballs, whole-wheat breadstick, steamed broccoli, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, April 9: Turkey grinder, pasta salad, Cape Cod Chips, fresh and chilled fruit.

Friday, April 10: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, baked cookie.

ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, April 6: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Tuesday, April 7: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Nutri-Grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Wednesday, April 8: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Thursday, April 9: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Friday, April 10: Pillsbury mini pancakes with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, chilled 1 percent low-fat milk, chilled juice.

See page 22 for more school news

ACADEMIC

Cohen also praised the students' families for urging their youngsters to succeed and to work hard. "Those are the core values to success," he added.

School Superintendent William Sappelli said it's important to recognize the achievements of students in the classroom as well as outside the classroom. He said it's "an outstanding accomplishment" to

from page 8

maintain at least a B average for every year of high school.

Just prior to handing out the Academic A's, Lemanski noted that for seniors this award ceremony marked the beginning of the countdown to graduation in June. He told the seniors, "You've worked really hard all these years to get here and there are a lot of people who are very proud of you."

AJHS to present 'Annie Jr.' play

The Agawam Junior High School Drama Club will present "Annie Jr." Tuesday and Wednesday, April 14 and 15, at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium.

Based on "Little Orphan Annie" by permission of the Tribune Media Services Inc., the musical was originally produced by Stephen R. Friedman. Tickets, which are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and free for all those under the age of 5, will be sold at the door.

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STAR ■ from page 1

come to the dinner.

“What Rachel wrote made me feel very special,” said Corey, who enjoyed pizza with her sister while they hung out together at the two-hour dinner. When asked why she chose her sister, Rachel said, “Because I love her.”

PTO Treasurer Christine Fontaine said the dinner — which drew more than 500 people — is one of the best-attended events the PTO hosts. “We’re very proud to host this event and to honor all of the students’ ‘Shining Stars’ — the person who stood out above all others.”

Fontaine said the PTO started the event last year, calling it the “Hero Dinner.” This year, the theme was changed slightly, but the goal remained the same: a fun family event with a low cost (\$5 per person; “Shining Stars” were free) for Granger families.

“Having the children involved in school with the writing and then holding this dinner really helps to get everyone, from students to teachers to families, to participate. That’s why there was such a huge turnout,” she added.

Joe Mickiewicz was the “Shining Star” for his daughter Ella, 9, a third grader. He said the dinner was a “nice way to bring school families together” for a meal.

“It was great to have a chance to get together with other families in a positive atmosphere,” he added.

Erin King, whose son Cameron, 6, picked her as his “Shining Star,” called the dinner an “amazing” event. “This is a great event to have to bring the school community together,” said King. She said she felt very honored that her son, a kindergartener, picked her instead of his father.

The dinner, held at the junior high school cafeteria, included a 50-50 raffle, a photo booth, a slide show, music, a walk of fame and a silent auction. Among the “fabulous” student items up for bid: the opportunity to be principal for a day, a round of miniature golf with a teacher, pizza with the principal, a movie after school, and ice cream at Moolicious Farms.

PTO President Eric Lunden said Granger staff, along with Principal Cheryl Salomão, helped the PTO come up with the theme and assisted in organizing the event. He said the dinner was a “community event, not a fundraiser.” Lunden added that the goal was to provide an event that promotes the school’s community spirit.

The raffle and silent auction covered the cost of free dinners offered to each “Shining Star” and paid for the cost of hiring school cafeteria staff to help run the event. Families and Granger staff volunteered with setting up, cleaning up, serving dinners, and running activities, such as the photo booth. Families brought baked desserts, coffee, and extra snack items.

Bruno’s Pizzeria provided discounted pizzas and other local businesses, such as Stop & Shop in Feeding Hills and New England Business Associates in Springfield, contributed to the dinner.

Fontaine said Heidi Maloni, an enrichment teacher at Granger, played “a huge” role in getting kids involved and helping every student identify a “star” in his or her life. “Heidi made a presentation for all the students. She explained what a ‘shining star’ is and asked them to think about who they would like to write about for that honor.”



Parent Michelle Cooley reads some of the “Shining Star” narratives that Granger Elementary School students wrote about the person they picked as their “Shining Star.”
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



“Shining Star” Kaitlyn Corey, 22 (left) dances with her sister Rachel Obegenski, 8, at the Granger School PTO’s Shining Star Night dinner on March 25.



Granger Elementary School teacher Nancy O’Keefe “interviews” Teagan Kind, 5, and her “Shining Star” grandfather Stephen Tingley, on the “walk of fame” as they enter the Granger PTO’s Shining Star Night dinner.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Hair on the head

5. Cirques

9. Thai (var.)

12. S. China seaport

13. Swiss river

14. Unstressed-stressed

15. Beginner Dr. Suess book

18. Begetter

19. Singer ___ Lo Green

20. Shaded promenades

21. Not wet

22. Grow weary

23. Philippine Island or it’s seaport

25. Teeter-totter

28. Not alive

30. Golf scores

31. Tap gently

33. Ancient ointment

34. Constitution Hall org.

35. Icelandic poems

36. Citrus drink suffix

37. Detailed design

criteria

39. Dignified manner

40. New York island

42. Clods

44. Camera optic

45. Add sound into a film

46. Ringworm

48. Tablet

49. Defense Department

52. 3rd “Star Wars” film

56. Raincoats

57. Restaurant

58. Head fronts

59. Burn residue

60. Immature newt

61. After ones

CLUES DOWN

1. “Dragon Tattoo” actress

2. Received an A grade

3. No (Scottish)

4. Very long period of time

5. Crafty & shrewd

6. Hourly payment for services

7. Married woman

8. More disreputable

9. F. Lamas’ 3rd wife Arlene

10. 11-23-14 awards show

11. Big Blue

12. Million gallons per day (abbr.)

14. Runs out of gear

16. Beige

17. Nostrils

21. Unit of loudness

22. Czar

23. Insert mark

24. Doctor of Education

26. ___ Adaba

27. Walk with your feet in water

28. Genetic information carrier

29. Great St. Louis bridge builder

30. Political action committee

32. Cast out

34. Cub Scout groups

35. Voltage

37. Guide

38. Self-mortification

41. Alder genus

42. Awadh

43. Blood type

45. Meeting arranged

46. Green, black and oolong

47. It causes scratching

48. Slang saying of disbelief

49. Art ___, 1920’s design

50. Lyrics

51. Show disrespect to

52. Returned material authorization, abbr.

53. Clod or lummo

54. Computerized money movement

55. Mandible & maxilla

Answers on page 6

'Stars' honored to be chosen

Interviews and Photos by Mike Lydick

The "stars" — moms, dads, brothers, sisters, cousins — came out for the Granger PTO's Shining Star Night dinner on March 25. The two-hour event honored special people the lives of Granger students.

Each student picked one person, someone who fits the phrase "everything I've wished for is everything you are." Students then wrote about why that person made a difference in their lives. Their "mini essays" about the "Shining Stars" were displayed and shared at the dinner.

As the students and their "stars" arrived, their photos were taken by Granger paraprofessional Beth O'Neill in a special "photo booth." They then strolled down the "walk of fame" carpet, for an "interview" with teacher Nancy O'Keefe. She used a microphone so everyone at the dinner could hear her interviews.

The "stars" got VIP treatment, were treated to a pizza dinner with salad and dessert, and received special hand-made "star necklaces" to wear. Best of all, the "Shining Stars" got to spend some quality time with the youngster who chose them for the unique honor.

Christina Beauchemin said she enjoyed her "big night" out on the town at the "swanky" junior high school cafeteria with her son, a kindergarten student. "Jacob enjoyed it the most, so that made it 'big,'" she said. "Nothing like seeing a proud kid to make a mom proud."

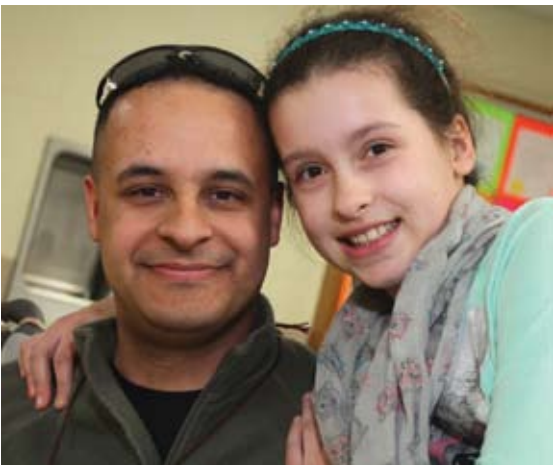


Stacy Lawson and her daughter Emma, 9, fourth grade
Why Emma chose Mom: "She's always watching over me. She helps me take care of my diabetes. She makes sure my clothes are neat and clean. Most of all, she gives me lots of love."
Mom's reaction: "It feels amazing — absolutely amazing. I thought she would pick my mother. I was almost speechless when I found out. It feels so wonderful to know she would think of me as her 'Shining Star.'"

Danielle Elias and her son Michael, 8, second grade
Why Michael chose Mom: "She's very nice. She's a good cuddler and plays outside with me."
Mom's reaction: "My goodness — I was so honored and a little surprised. I was so happy I started to cry. It makes me feel so special to be honored this way."

Steve Sabol and his daughter Chanel, 7, first grade
Why Chanel chose Dad: "Because he's nice."
Dad's reaction: "Very touched when Chanel came home from school and told me. I was surprised Chanel picked me over her mother — but I'm very happy she did."

Richard Allen and his daughter Emily, 9, fourth grade
Why Emily chose Dad: "He works very hard. He's responsible and lovable."
Dad's reaction: "I was very excited and surprised — I thought that Emily would have picked her mother or her grandmother. I'm very honored — it shows I'm doing something right as a parent."



Erica Pittsinger and her son Xavier, 6, kindergarten
Why Xavier chose Mom: "Because I love her. She plays with me every day."
Mom's reaction: "It was very flattering — I felt honored. It's nice to know that he appreciates what I do for him. This was 'date night' with mom — he didn't want his brother or dad to come with us."

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— Jim Rohn

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A flurry of activity

Saturday's spring snowfall did not deter tenacious Easter egg hunters. The town's Parks and Recreation Department registered 175 families for this fourth annual hunt, which was moved from School Street Park to the outdoor basketball court at Agawam High School. Two more Easter egg hunts will be held this Saturday at local churches; see page 17 for details.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY HATCH



Peyton King freezes for a mere moment while looking for the next egg.



Wendy Loubier is all smiles as 4-year-old Tanner Loubier cracks open his collected eggs and pours his candy.



Antara Ghosh proudly carries her child's overflowing basket.



A young girl catches snowflakes on her tongue while waiting for the egg hunt to begin.



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³ \$50 will be credited to your account after five ESB online bill payments have been posted to your account and online eStatements are activated (both must occur within 60 days of account opening). If achieved, this \$50 Bonus will be paid into your account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been open.
⁴ \$50 will be credited to your account if it remains open and active for at least 365 days. If achieved, this \$50 Bonus will be paid into your account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 365th day the account has been open.
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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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Before the hunt, plastic eggs add a splash of color to the school's wet basketball court.



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For a few brief minutes, the blacktop was a frenzy of activity as kids collected their eggs.



A thin strip of caution tape stands between a line of children and their candy-filled plastic eggs.

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SPORTS

SOFTBALL

Lady Brownies look for bounceback season

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last year, the Agawam softball team was a favorite to repeat as the Western Massachusetts Division 1 champion.

But that was not to be as poor defense came back to haunt the Brownies and they were defeated in the quarterfinals of the tournament against a surprising Chicopee team. The Pacers won 8-7 in an eight-inning game.

It is now a new year, but many of the same Brownies will hopefully take the field in the next two weeks to begin the regular season.

Coach Kathy Georgina only has to replace two her starters, but both were quality fielders and hitters.

Danielle Stratton, a shortstop now playing for Endicott College, and Mary Kate Reidy, the team's right fielder, have graduated and moved on.

Georgina will seek to replace those positions.

But there are many other great players returning to the team, led

by pitcher Allison Wheeler.

Wheeler has already built a very impressive resume, making it all the way to the state finals as a freshman. She was brought to the varsity her freshman year to split pitching duties. But her performance won her the starting role full time, and she pitched in most every game the rest of the season.

Agawam has been well known in the past few years for having multiple pitchers. But last year, Wheeler was Agawam's only starting pitcher on varsity. As a sophomore, Wheeler continued her great pitching.

She pitched 144 innings. She had 175 strikeouts and won 16 games. Her freshman year, she had 140 strikeouts and won 15 games.

Now a junior, Wheeler is just 185 strikeouts from 500, the benchmark for a softball pitcher. She is likely to be joined by her catcher last year, Sabrina Dubiel.

Other returning players include first baseman Becca Uschmann, second baseman Taylor



Maria Moccio takes swings in the cage. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SOFTBALL | page 16

SPRING SPORTS

Still waiting out old man winter

Editor's Note: The Turley Publications Sports Staff will do weekly updates on this story until the spring season begins for all programs at every school.

By Dave Forbes

Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

Old man winter's grip on the region may be starting to loosen a little bit, but the powerful cold weather that he has delivered has still left many lingering problems across the region for those schools that are trying to get their spring campaigns started.

As we did last week, we trekked our way across parts of Western and Central Massachusetts to see the conditions at high school fields across the region, and while some spots brought us hope, others left us wondering if some of these teams will be able to play a home game before the calendar turns to May.

We started our day with a trip over to Agawam High School. As was said the week before, Harmon A. Smith had been cleared of snow and the tennis courts looked good, but the baseball and softball fields showed little to no improvement.

Our trips to Holyoke and Chicopee Comp gave us more reason to be hopeful, though. At Holyoke, the snow was gone from much of Mackenzie with the exception of the warning track in the outfield, which still had some ice and snow. The softball field looked to



The pitcher's mound is barely visible on the baseball field at Agawam High School. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF PHOTOS BY DAVE FORBES



A sign that spring may be coming at some point soon is the baseball on the ground at Agawam High School.

SPRING | page 16

BASKETBALL

Agawam teams play at Webb Tourney

By Nate Rosenthal

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The Webb Memorial Basketball Tournament at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club concluded its 11th year this week with a host of teams providing some very exciting basketball.

A total of 46 teams began play three weeks ago in seven divisions and on Monday the final countdown reached its end with three teams being crowned. The seven divisions were comprised of nearly 500 athletes from 3rd/4th, 5th/6th and 7th/8th grades. There were two girls' divisions in 3rd/4th and 5th/6th. The host Boys and Girls Club itself sponsored six teams.

In two groupings, one the 5th/6th and another of the 7th/8th there were boys teams from Agawam.

The tournament was named after George Webb, who before his untimely passing in 2004 was a well known figure at the Boys and Girls Club. When he wasn't playing pickup basketball, he gave his time to help out as much as he could. Though Webb was not from Chicopee, he did settle for a time in Willimansett. Even when he moved to Holyoke, he could not stay away. Through the efforts of his close friend, Kevin Vann, Webb's contributions would not be forgotten. Vann and his associates were involved in building a new gymnasium,

along with Webb and as a way to honor his memory they decided to run a tournament. In the 11 years since its inception they have raised more than \$100,000. Webb is survived by his wife Karen and daughter Brianne.

The tournament, as has been the case for several years, was in the capable hands of James Gutierrez. The tournament is run in a double elimination format. There are two brackets and as a team keeps winning, they move along in the upper bracket. If they lose they drop to the lower bracket and play until they lose a second time. In the end two teams will emerge one that went undefeated in the upper bracket and another with one loss in the lower bracket. They meet for the championship with a possible second game. There was one exception to this format that being the 5th/6th grade girls, who played a round robin with the three teams in the grouping.

The winners were: 3/4 boys: Ludlow Boys and Girls Club; 3/4 girls: Lady Bolts; 5/6 boys group 1: Our Lady of Guadalupe; 5/6 boys group 2: Mig's Team; 5/6 girls: Our Lady of Guadalupe; 7/8 boys group 1: Mig's Team; 7/8 boys group 2: Holy Name.(P).

The Agawam 5/6 boys' team played in group 2 with eight other teams. From the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club were the Bolts. Also from Chicopee were two

WEBB | page 16

Agawam St. Pat's Day Road Race runners

HOLYOKE - A large contingent of runners from Agawam took part in the 2015 St. Patrick's Day Road Race on Saturday, March 21.
Listed below are the results:

1	MICHAEL PAULIN	22	M	39:22
2	KEVIN PAULIN	22	M	39:29
3	STEVE GAMBLE	29	M	44:31
4	WILLIAM KRAUS	32	M	46:22
5	MICHAEL KENNEDY	42	M	46:56
6	REBECCA CHEVALIER	25	F	47:58
7	DAVID RUBIO	35	M	48:07
8	DAVID GAMBLIN	46	M	48:18
9	MIKE ABBOTT	32	M	48:19
10	AARON HOLLOWAY	31	M	48:27
11	JOHN STONE	26	M	48:38
12	RYAN FEYRE	16	M	48:58
13	CHARLES JOYAL JR.	18	M	49:28
14	KRYSTIN HEDGES	28	F	50:23
15	NEIL DONAH	29	M	50:31
16	CHRISTOPHER BENJAMIN	38	M	50:51
17	MARC GUILLEMETTE	37	M	51:10
18	DANIEL SULLIVAN	30	M	51:21
19	JOSEPH MICKIEWICZ	40	M	51:48
20	CHRISTINE ROSSO	50	F	52:16
21	KEVIN CHEVALIER	21	M	52:17
22	RICHARD SHEEHAN	45	M	53:12
23	TOM DELUCA	59	M	53:12
24	SCOTT MURPHY	31	M	53:21
25	KELLY LEGRAND	24	F	53:28
26	LINDA URICCHIO	42	F	53:34
27	AMY LEMIRE	22	F	53:53
28	DEBBIE GIROUARD	51	F	54:00
29	JONAVAN RAMOS	24	M	54:21
30	LYNNE TINGLEY	53	F	54:37
31	KERRY KENNEDY	41	F	54:42
32	ASHLEY MCGRATH	26	F	54:47
33	ALYSON DUBIEL	15	F	55:36
34	ERIN SAUNDERS	23	F	56:02
35	CAITLIN PAULIN	24	F	56:03
36	LAURA PROVOST	27	F	56:14
37	MARC GENDRON	44	M	56:26
38	JAMES PAULIN	55	M	56:27
39	SETH CHURCH	32	M	56:44
40	STEPHANIE DOUGLASS	45	F	57:08
41	ANNA SERRA	20	F	57:20
42	GARRETT KENDZIERA	29	M	57:24
43	ANGELA DELUDE	39	F	57:41
44	AIMEE FLEURY	34	F	57:52
45	RICHARD HEINEMANN	45	M	57:53
46	GEORGE AMMIRATO	47	M	57:54
47	JULIE LACHAPPELLE	30	F	59:19
48	AVINASH BHARVIRKAR	43	M	59:42
49	MACKENZIE DOYLE	23	F	1:00:06
50	CYNTHIA LILLY	33	F	1:00:33
51	MICHELLE KOWALSKY	34	F	1:00:48
52	DANIELLE METRAS	36	F	1:00:55
53	SARAH BILLINGS	27	F	1:00:58
54	HOLLY KRESIAK	38	F	1:01:46
55	RICK HAGLUND	34	M	1:02:03
56	KEITH DAVIS	46	M	1:02:07
57	BRITTNEY VALLEE	29	F	1:02:29
58	MEAGHAN SERRA	26	F	1:03:18
59	DOUGLAS BERNIER	36	M	1:03:29
60	ANTHONY RUSSO	37	M	1:03:45
61	MICHAEL COOKISH	32	M	1:03:50
62	JON QUENNEVILLE	41	M	1:03:50
63	DIANA MOORE	24	F	1:04:24
64	ALEXANDER SEYMOUR	28	M	1:04:35
65	CHRISTIE HAINES	45	F	1:04:44
66	BOB HAINES	45	M	1:04:44
67	BRIE BOBECKI	24	F	1:04:52
68	GERARD HACKETT	29	M	1:05:16
69	KRISTIE BOUTIN	29	F	1:05:35
70	AMANDA SHEPARD	27	F	1:05:35
71	JESSICA NUZZOLILLI	35	F	1:05:55
72	KIMBERLY GLYNN	33	F	1:06:05
73	KATHLEEN PAULIN	54	F	1:06:36
74	ERINN YOUNG	38	F	1:06:43
75	TIM WEGIEL	35	M	1:07:32
76	KATHY GEORGINA	41	F	1:07:43
77	ALEXIS LAVIOLETTE	20	F	1:08:07
78	RICHARD FERRY	46	M	1:08:10



Michael Paulin was the top finisher from Agawam as he finished in a time of 39:22. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY SWEET-DOGPHOTOS.COM

79	PATRICK ARMSTRONG	34	M	1:08:19
80	SARA DAUPHINAIS	30	F	1:08:33
81	STEVE DAVIS	33	M	1:08:34
82	CHRIS THERIAQUE	38	M	1:09:01
83	MELISSA THERIAQUE	35	F	1:09:02
84	BETSEY SZEMELA	37	F	1:09:11
85	ED MODZELEWSKI	44	M	1:09:17
86	AMANDA QUINLAN	38	F	1:09:28
87	KAITLIN COOKISH	32	F	1:09:37
88	KATHLEEN FYDENKEVEZ	30	F	1:09:39
89	WILLIAM GAMBLE	40	M	1:10:14
90	PHET GOSSELIN	43	F	1:11:05
91	AGNES GONET	43	F	1:11:24
92	SUSANNE DUBIEL	42	F	1:11:26
93	STEPHANIE BROWN	41	F	1:11:59
94	MELISSA BENERAKIS	41	F	1:12:41
95	KEVIN COONEY	33	M	1:13:03
96	BRIANNE NICKLAW	28	F	1:13:11
97	PATTY KORNEY	55	F	1:13:35
98	JOY BENOIT	41	F	1:13:42
99	LISA PETERSON	44	F	1:17:06
100	DEB ST. JACQUES	55	F	1:17:16
101	KEN PIRES	44	M	1:17:47
102	NANCY TAUPIER	48	F	1:18:26
103	SARAH STEPHENS	18	F	1:18:44
104	REBECCA MCKIERNAN	18	F	1:18:44
105	MICHAEL STYCKIEWICZ	54	M	1:19:38
106	MELISSA POIRIER	36	F	1:21:23
107	SUSAN MYERS	51	F	1:21:36
108	PATRICK KEVANE	60	M	1:22:55
109	MADELINE JOYAL	17	F	1:23:08
110	ASHLEE MONTESSI	29	F	1:26:15
111	CAMERON BENOIT	13	M	1:47:14



From left to right: Tim Lockwood, Litz Memorial Scholarship winner Nick Antico, and Arden D'Amours. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTO

Antico receives Litz Award

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Recently, the Agawam High School boys basketball held their annual banquet to celebrate their season. At that event, Nick Antico was given a \$1,000 scholarship, made possible by the Brian Litz Memorial Alumni Game. In addition to Antio, Alex Sours and James Macey each received \$500 scholarships. The banquet was held at St. Anne's Country Club in Agawam.

Tim Lockwood, who helps run the alumni games as well as the scholarship fund, hopes to continue to raise awareness for the scholarship and continue playing games in honor of Litz.

Litz's was a K-9 deputy sheriff in Ocala, a town in Marion County, Fla. He was killed responding to a wellness check by a 74-year-old man on Feb. 7, 2004. Litz was 35.

Lockwood described Litz as a great teammate and someone who he did his best to cheer on his teammates. Agawam was mired in a 56-game losing streak in 1987 when Litz was a senior.

"He was on the varsity and went 0-40 as a player," said Lockwood. "After he graduated, we finally broke the streak and our team went 12-8 that season. When we finally won a game, he was the first one on the court to come and congratulate us."

Lockwood decided he wanted to do something to honor the memory of Litz. Lockwood said Litz's son already had a scholarship for college set.

Under the format set by Lockwood and the Litz family, the underclassmen members of the basketball team vote by silent ballot on which senior they feel most deserve the scholarship. The person with the second most votes receives a smaller scholarship depending on available funds.

Lockwood said the scholarship committee was proud to give out two "runner-up" scholarships.

"Both Alex and James received the same number of votes, so both received scholarships," said Lockwood.

The eighth annual game was played on Dec. 18, 2014, and featured a game between the current players on the Brownies against a team of alumni players. Because of the great interest in the alumni game, when the event turned five years old, Lockwood held two games. One was between mix alumni group and the current varsity. Another game pitted the 1990's team against the 2000's team.

That interest has continued into this year and Lockwood announced plans for two games to be played every year to allow more players to come back to Agawam High and participate.

NFF banquet set for April 12

SPRINGFIELD – The Western Mass Chapter of the National Football Foundation will host the annual banquet on Sunday, April 12 at the Campus Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. UMass Coach, Mark Whipple, will provide opening remarks and the Western Mass Chapter of the National Football Foundation will honor the All-Western Mass football squad.

The event will also feature the Butova Award winner, awarded to a former football player who is devoted to the game of football and has distinguished himself later in life. This year, the award will be presented to U.S. Marshall John Gibbons.

Tickets are available for purchase by calling the American International College Athletic office at 413-205-3939.



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Sports



Becca Uschmann takes swings off the tee. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SOFTBALL ■ from page 14

Marcotte, third baseman Jess Lingenberg, and outfielders Katie Grasso, and Rachel Lapponese. Maria Moccio, who made noise as a freshman designated hitter, also are back this season.

Georgina will also be bringing more new players aboard during the next week of preseason. Agawam's preseason will likely be extended as the team has not been able to go outside. As of Tuesday, the softball field is still under a few inches of

snow.

Agawam's season opener on March 31 against Palmer has been postponed.

Agawam is scheduled to face Ludlow on the road at Baird Middle School on Wednesday, April 15 at 4 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

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SPRING ■ from page 14

be in much better condition as the infield dirt was soft, but had no signs of snow or ice on it. A quick trip over to Rivers Park where Chicopee Comp plays its baseball games showed its fields to be in really good shape as well.

Our next stop during the day was a trip to Legion Field in Palmer, which looked to be in better condition than it had the week before, but the field still had its share of snow on it.

We then made the trip up Route 32 into Ware to check out how things looked over at Memorial Field. While the snow had melted quite a bit from the previous visit, there was still a solid layer that was covering the field.

We then made our trip up further north to two areas that were in far worse shape than any of the other fields that we had visited — Quaboag and Quabbin. Those two areas were hit harder by snow than most communities in Western Massachusetts were and it still shows on the fields at both schools with a considerable amount remaining on both schools baseball and softball diamonds, but the one advantage that Quaboag has is that the snow has been gone from its tennis courts for some time now.

As the rain picked up in intensity last Thursday, the trip concluded with our last two stops of the day - Belchertown and Ludlow. The baseball field at Belchertown High School was definitely hit and miss as there was some grass showing around the pitcher's mound and near two of the bases, but from home plate to first base, that area still was encased in ice.

Whitney Field in Ludlow was waterlogged by the time we got over there on

Thursday afternoon and there was still a layer of snow on parts of the field, but overall the conditions looked to be an improvement over the previous week.

Just a reminder of cutoff dates for regular season contests: Boys volleyball will now have a cutoff date of May 25, followed by boys and girls lacrosse, golf and boys and girls track and field on May 28, baseball and softball on May 31 and boys and girls team tennis on June 1. The cutoff for individual tennis was moved to May 11. The tournament seeding dates for team tennis, individual tennis, boys and girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, baseball and softball will take place the day after the new cutoff date.

Here is to hoping that we will have better news to report next week.

Dave Forbes is the sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.

Changes to the spring schedule

AGAWAM - Due to the slow snow melt that has taken place, several changes have been made to the Agawam spring sports schedule that was posted in the paper last week.

Here are the changes:

The Agawam at West Springfield baseball game, which was scheduled for Monday, March 30, has been postponed to Tuesday, April 14, at 4 p.m.

The Palmer at Agawam girls softball on Tuesday, March 31, has been postponed. No makeup date has been announced.

WEBB ■ from page 14

AJAC teams, AJAC (M) and AJAC Thunder as well as Force and the Knights of Columbus Sharks. From Springfield came Mig's Team and SOY (Save Our Youth) and there was a team from West Springfield. Mig's Team won it all, beating SOY for the championship on Monday, March 30. Agawam finished at 2-2. Their 7/8 boys' team played in group 2, the largest group which began play with 13 teams. Joining Agawam were two teams the Chicopee Knights of Columbus, the Bulls and Knights and two independent teams from Chicopee, Force 1 and Force 2. There were several teams from Springfield, such as Holy Name and Holy Name (P) as well as Mig's Team and the Blue Heat. From Longmeadow there were the Wizards; from Westfield was St. Mary's; St. Patrick's of South Hadley played in the group. Holy Name (P) ran the table, going undefeated in five games, the final being a championship win over the KC Knights on Sunday, March 29. Agawam went 1-2.

The 5/6 team beat the Bolts in their first game on Sunday, March 15th, and then two days later fell to Force. Now in the lower bracket, they beat the Bolts for a second time on the 21st, but were eliminated five days later by West Springfield. Agawam finished in a three way tie for third with Westside and Force. Their bracket was won by Mig's Team, who beat SOY, 37-33 in the finals on Monday the 30th. Mig's Team went 3-0 and took a forfeit in the next game, while SOY went 4-1 in its road to the finals. This one was close all the way, with many changes in the lead. Edgar Centanno got SOY the lead, 2-0, but Dashawn Stewart and Jayden Bass made it 4-2. Chichi Hernandez hit a three and another basket and SOY was up 7-4. Tamon Boyd tied it at 7-7 with a three. And on it went. After Gio Santiago put SOY ahead 14-13, Shamel Collins tied it with a free throw to send them to the break at 14-14. Early on when they returned, SOY led 21-14, but then Mig's scored 15 unanswered points and led 29-21 with 8:16 to play. It got to 11 points with six to go and that deficit proved to be too much for SOY. They made a small run at the end, scoring nine of the last eleven points, but they fell short. Bass with seven was the MVP.

The 7/8 squad opened with a loss to Granby on March 14 and then were off until March 18, when they played Force 2 in the lower bracket. They moved on with a win and took on St. Mary's on the 21st. They lost and were eliminated. At 1-2, Agawam

was tied for seventh with Mig's Team and St. Mary's. Holy Name (P), undefeated, won it all with a 55-52 win over the KC Knights in finals on Sunday the 29th. The game was the first of two championships that day. As Holy Name had not lost, the Knights would have to beat them a second time and that game would have been later on Sunday. Holy Name (P) won the bracket with those five wins. While three teams drew a first round bye, they were not one of them. In their first round game on March 14, Holy Name beat St. Patrick's. Their next win came over Force 1 the next day. On Wednesday, they beat KC Knights and then secured their place in the finals when they beat Longmeadow on Monday, March 23. The finals were the next Sunday against the KC Knights. This game had many twists and turns. Holy Name led 3-0 after a basket and free throw by James Hurst. Six points by Isaiah Rivera and two by Bryan Perez put the Knights in the lead, 8-3. Kobe Bryant scored for Holy Name to make it 8-5 on a basket by Kobe Parker, but then KC ran off eight straight to lead 16-5. Their deficit grew and 4:00 to go in the half, they were down 21-8 after a Rivera three. Hurst answered with a trey that began a 17-point run by Holy Name that carried into the second half. Hurst had six of the nine points to end the half, four of which came in the last 15 seconds and Holy Name closed to 21-17. They scored eight to open the second half, taking the lead on two free throws by James Gonzalez. KC came back again and led 28-27. It would go back and forth with each team taking the lead. Hurst put them ahead for good when he hit two free throws with 2:36 to play and now it was 42-41. The final minutes had a lot of free throws, but Holy Name held on in the end. Hurst was named the MVP with 32 points.

The championship finals got underway on Saturday with Ludlow winning the 3/4 boys bracket. The game did not start off well for Ludlow. Though they scored first on a free throw by Ben Riley, the Tigers scored the next six on baskets by Hayden Zapata, Jamilet Lopez and Marcus Trczunski. Midway through the first half they had but that one free throw and they trailed 6-1. Then they took over. In a three and a half minute span Braeden Schwartz scored 11 straight points and with 4:03 to go, Ludlow led 12-6. They continued their run with four more with a basket by Brady Decoteau and free throws by Drew Smith and Alex

Lagacy. At the half, it was 16-6. Ludlow scored the first seven points after the break with Decoteau getting five and Schwartz, two. Chicopee finally broke the run at 22 when James Creek made a 3-pointer. With 12:34 to go, Ludlow led 23-9 and there margin would stay between 10 and 15 over the next 10:00, with Ludlow holding a 31-18 lead. They scored the final eight points of the game and took the championship, the first of the seven to be decided. Schwartz, who scored 16 points, was named the MVP of the game.

The next to be finalized were the 5/6 girls, which arrived at its final by way of a three team round robin. Over the first week Our Lady of Guadalupe beat Dunbar 21-14 and then Dunbar beat St. Patrick's 26-18. The third game was OLOG beating St. Pat's 22-7. The total scores were added up and OLOG drew the bye in the next round by virtue of scoring the most points. With Dunbar beating St. Pat's in the next game, OLOG and Dunbar met in the finals on the 28th with Our Lady winning, 24-19. Dunbar took a 2-0 lead a minute and half in, but then OLOG scored the next six points, all by Nana Morales. Dunbar got back to a point at 6-5 on a basket by Ta'keela Jackson, but Roselyn Baez and Dyani Rivera scored to make it 10-5 with 6:00 to go in the half. At the break, Our Lady led 12-9. In the second half the teams battled back and forth and with 5:42 to play, Dunbar actually took a one-point lead at 17-16 on a Janaya Merced basket. But then free throws by Nathalie Vazquez tied it and gave the lead back to OLOG. They would maintain it and win 24-19. Vazquez, who scored nine was named MVP.

After the Holy Name game on Sunday, the Lady Bolts of the host Chicopee Boys and Girls Club beat Wilshire of Springfield, 26-11. The Lady Bolts led the 3/4 girls' game from start to finish with the exception of a one tie early in the game. Alaysia Rodriguez got them a 2-0 lead and Angelina Hultquin made it four. Baskets by Samaj Moore and Sydney Dodds tied it at 10:04. Jamilet Lopez untied it with a layup and a three. At the half, it was 11-6. Tracetta Caudle got Wilshire to three points 10 seconds into the second half. They would get no closer. The Bolts scored the next 11 points, with five from Lopez and four from Rodriguez. It was 22-8 with 6:23 to play and the game finished with a 15-point margin at 26-11. Rodriguez had eight points and received

the MVP trophy.

The tournament concluded on Monday with three games. Following the 5/6 boys 2 game with Mig's Team and SOY, came the 5/6 boys 1 game. Our Lady of Guadalupe beat Mig's Team in the 5/6 boys 1 game, 67-56 in yet another seesaw affair. OLOG got the first lead at 2-0 with a basket by Edison Davis. William Davis and Jayden Long gave Mig's team the lead at 4-2. Three minutes later, it was OLOG up 11-6 on a basket by William Cruz. They opened that to 20-12 with 6:00 left, but back came Mig's Team with a 12-2 run on eight points by Jedrien Feliciano and a three by Dwayne Luerra that gave them a 24-22 lead. At the half, Mig's led 27-26. Edison Davis got the lead back for Our Lady in the opening seconds, but Jamar Mack got it back for Mig's A minute later, Cruz tied it and Mack put OLOG ahead at 32-30. Mig's Team would get one more lead at 37-36, but Cruz would get it right back and OLOG led the rest of the way, gradually building the lead to as much as 10 points in the final seconds. Cruz was named MVP with 24 points. Edison Davis led all scorers with 25.

The tournament ended with the 7/8 boys 1 game between Mig's Team and Our Lady and this was not close was Mig's team won 89-41. It took a 1:30 to get the first basket of the game, that being a three by Myles Bradley to give Mig's a 3-0 lead. He got it to 5-0. Jeremiah Gomez got OLOG on the board 3:00 in with a three and Zeleke Marin got two back. Another three by Gomez made it 7-6 with 11:50 to go, but that was as close as they would get. Mig's Team scored the next 10 and led 17-6. A 10-4 run left it at 27-10 with 5:45 to play. Mig's broke it open in those final minutes with another 17-6 run and at the half they led 44-18. The things really got away from them. Two and a half minutes into the second half, the margin was 36 at 56-20 after a Victor Richey three. With 10:40 remaining, Richey got them to 40 points at 66-26. And for the remainder of the game, the lead fluctuated from 39 to 48 points. Kenny Williams was the MVP with 22 points, while Darious Diaz had 20.

Another successful tournament had come to an end.

Nate Rosenthal is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

Obituaries & Church News

Michael C. Acquaro 1926-2015

AGAWAM — Michael C. Acquaro Sr., 88, died Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at Baystate Medical Center. He was born Sept. 27, 1926, the son of the late Grace (Godfredo) and Peter Acquaro.

He was a decorated World War II U.S. Navy veteran and was awarded the Victory Medal, the American Theater Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Medal. He served in the Navy Reserve during the Korean conflict and later enlisted in, and in 1988 retired from, the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, where he was awarded the Coast Guard Reserve Meritorious Service Medal. He was also a retired postal worker and a retired pipe coverer with Local 43. He earned his high school diploma later in life from Agawam High School and graduated from STCC, where he later served as an adjunct instructor in several technical programs.

He and his late wife of 53 years, Antoinette, raised their family in Agawam and later retired to New Port Richey, Fla., before recently returning back to Agawam. He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills. He is survived by his five children, Thomas J. of DeLand,

Fla., Annette Marcoullier of Springfield, Michael C. Acquaro Jr. of West Springfield, Gina Smus of Agawam, and MaryAnn Stanley of Punta Gorda, Fla.; as well as nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. For more information, visit www.forastiere.com.

Nicholas Haidemenos 1921-2015

AGAWAM — Nicholas G. Haidemenos, 93, passed away early Sunday evening, March 22, 2015, at Heritage Hall East. Nick was born and educated in Springfield, a son of the late George and Demetroula (Akamatis) Haidemenos.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the United States Army, Company A, 351st Infantry Regiment, 88th Division, and was the recipient of the Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and the EAMET Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars. Returning back to the States and resuming his civilian life, Nick began his career as a pipefitter and oil burner specialist with Hurley & David Inc. HVAC, from

which he retired in 1985.

Nick was a longtime member of the Agawam United Methodist Church, and the devoted husband and best friend of 67 years to Lillian A. (Neill) Haidemenos. Besides his wife, he leaves two loving daughters, Julia A. Haidemenos and her husband Stephen Tobey of Washington, D.C., and Sandra J. Schultz and her husband the Rev. Paul Schultz of Hudson Falls, N.Y.; a brother, Samuel Haidemenos of Springfield; two grandchildren, Sarah Jones and her husband Evan, and Jonathan Schultz and his wife Beth Somers; two great-grandchildren, Evan and Aiden; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Nick was predeceased by his brothers, James, William, John and George Haidemenos, and his sisters, Helen Kominos and Penelope Kallas. His funeral service was held March 27 at Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home, 985 Main St., with committal services and military honors at the Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main St., both in Agawam. Memorial contributions may be made to Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, or to a charity of one’s choice. For more information, visit www.forastiere.com.

Fashion show to benefit needy families

The Catholic Women’s Club of Agawam will host a fashion show Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam.

Fashions will be provided by Little Black Dress of Enfield, Conn. The featured fashions, as well as others, will be available for sale before and at the end of the show.

Tickets, which are \$12, are available by calling Paula at 413-789-0244 or Angela at 413-786-5408 and will also be available at the door.

Wine, cheese, crackers and snacks will be served before the show and desert with coffee or tea will be available during the intermission. The day’s events will include door prizes and raffles.

All proceeds will be used to assist needy families in the area.

Egg hunts this Saturday

Two Agawam churches will hold Easter egg hunts and other family events Saturday, April 4.

Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam, will host is 14th annual Giant Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. The event will take place rain or shine and will include lots of prizes and candy. There will be bikes, scooters, games, toys and candy to give away, along with a puppet show. This egg hunt is planned for children through grade 6. Parents must accompany children under the age of 5 during the

hunt. For more information, contact Pastor Chuck Heimann at 413-789-2930.

Hope Community Church, 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will hold its annual Easter egg hunt at 1 p.m. Activities will feature making an Easter craft; a puppet show, “Let God be God,” with large puppets, music and black light at the Red Door Theatre; and, of course, an Easter egg hunt. Children in grades 5 and under are welcome to attend with accompanying adult. This event is free.

Church Directory

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Pastor: Rev. Greg E. Dawson
Agawam1@verizon.net
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Church school is in session and fellowship
coffee hour follows the service.
“A place to call home ~ A people to call family”

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
Pastor: Ken Blanchard
agawamumc@gmail.com
www.agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Communion served 1st and 3rd Sundays.
Coffee hour after worship; Bible Study after fellowship.
Prepare Meal for Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter 2nd Saturdays 2-5 p.m.
Offsite Worship:
Heritage East, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Heritage North, 1st Tuesdays, 11 a.m.
Heritage Woods, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Country Estates, 2nd and 5th Thursdays, 11 a.m.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

580 Main St., Agawam
(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams
WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9am & 10:45am
Christian Education offered during both services.
Nightlife Contemporary Service: Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION

50 Maple St., Agawam
(413) 304-2313
churchor.org
WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule

Sunday Services, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681
jesussaves.7@comcast.net
Church Website: www.faithbible-church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer
Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

“An Open and Affirming Congregation.”
21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
P.O. Box 264
(413) 786-5061
fhccucc@comcast.net
Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Church School 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Infant and child care provided.
Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AGAWAM

760 Main St., Agawam
churchedie@comcast.net
www.firstbaptistagawam.org
Pastor: Rev. George Thomson

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5)
following Children’s Message until 10:45
Youth Group meets at 11 a.m.
Coffee & Conversation following
worship service

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
Men’s & Women’s Bible Study Groups and
Children’s Sunday School Worship Service at

10 a.m. Children’s Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord’s Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.;
Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday,
Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the
Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.
786-6133
saintdavidsc@comcast.net
www.stdavidsagawam.org.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH

823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
info@stjohnnevangelistchurch.org
www.stjohnnagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Latin
Mass 12:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: Fridays, 7:15 to 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m.
Weekdays: Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday: Communion Service

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-
Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

Call for your Appointment

1-888-798-8528

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DEATH NOTICES

Acquaro, Michael C.
Died March 25, 2015
Funeral March 30, 2015
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Duga, Douglas D.
Died March 22, 2015
Private Funeral
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Haidemenos, Nicholas G.
Died March 2, 2015
Funeral March 27, 2015
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Silkey, Ernest R.
Died March 20, 2015
Funeral March 28, 2015
Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home
Suffield, Conn.

Tatro, Mary M.
Died March 23, 2015
Funeral March 30, 2015
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

(never known to fail): O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

-BTS

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Business

Epilepsy awareness



The law firm of Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury and Murphy, P.C., 1 Monarch Place, Springfield, continues to support "Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness," which was held March 26. Sarah Hulse of Agawam (center) has dealt with epilepsy since she was born and her mother's firm has participated in Purple Day for five years in a row. Everyone in the firm wears purple and donates to the Epilepsy Foundation in support of Hulse. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Green Leaves teams up with Nina's Cookies

Green Leaves To Go, started in 2011 by Rose LaFleur and Lois Rossi, recently moved from 713 Main St., Agawam, to 543 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Specializing in salads, caramelized fruits, and homemade soups and sandwiches, this gourmet bakery teamed up with Nina's Cookies, which opened its doors in 2008 and is owned by Maryann Whitehead and Lucy Mazza.

The two specialty businesses include

two sets of sisters and feature homemade foods prepared daily in a friendly, family atmosphere. Formerly the owners of the Blue Star on Union Street in West Springfield, LaFleur and Rossi offer free delivery as well as catering services.

For more information, contact Green Leaves To Go at 413-786-0444 and Nina's Cookies at 413-304-2075.

Legals

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD15P0411GD**
**In the matter of:
Anna Gurecki
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated
Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Heritage Hall North** of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Anna Gurecki** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 04/10/2015. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30

days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Anne M Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 13, 2015
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

4/2/15

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Bank seeks projects for volunteers

Berkshire Bank is seeking volunteer opportunities for its upcoming Company-Wide Week of Service, June 8-12. During the week, more than 300 bank employees are expected to participate in a series of service projects to help the communities in which the bank operates.

The bank has several locations in Greater Springfield, including a local office at 1359 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

Berkshire Bank is seeking service projects of all sizes, but generally should engage between five and 50 employees using a mix of skilled and non-skilled labor. Projects should be able to be completed in one day using largely bank volunteers, and have a tangible impact on both the orga-

nization and the individuals served by the organization. Limited financial support for selected projects may be available from Berkshire Bank Foundation, but organizations should also be involved financially and with project planning. Only non-profit and government entities, including towns and schools, located in a community with a Berkshire Bank office, are eligible for consideration. Examples of past service projects have included painting days, building outdoor classrooms, landscaping improvements, playground improvements, mentoring efforts as well as dozens of others.

All requests should be emailed to volunteer@berkshirebank.com for consideration.

Braman awarded for 'Super Service'

Braman Termite and Pest Elimination, based in Agawam, recently earned the Super Service Award from online consumer review site Angie's List.

"We are honored at Braman Termite and Pest Elimination to have once again earned the Angie's List Super Service Award, especially this year as we celebrate 125 years in business," said Jerry Lazarus, third-generation owner of Braman Termite and Pest Elimination. "I am confident that we provide a superior level of customer service that our customers have come to expect. This service is the result of our entire staff, but also under the leadership of several dedicated members that have been with Braman for decades."

Fourteen Braman employees have been with the company more than 20 years. Of

these, two have been with the company 30 or more years.

"Only about 5 percent of the companies in the greater Springfield, Mass., market have performed so consistently well enough to earn our Super Service Award," said Angie's List Founder Angie Hicks. "It's a really high standard."

Winners of the award must have an overall "A" rating from customers and pass a background check, among other requirements. This year's award is based on ratings from 2014.

The company, which was founded in Boston in 1890, also has locations in Hartford and in Auburn, Mass. For more information, visit BramanPest.com.



**Docket No. HD15P0506EA
Estate of: Frances B Nash
Date of Death: 01/04/2015
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Brian J Nash** of East Longmeadow MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: **Brian J Nash** of East Longmeadow MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 04/23/2015.

This is NOT a hear-

ing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Anne M Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 26, 2015
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

4/2/15

**LEGAL AD
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 6:00 PM**, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of NWST, LLC for work to be performed on 14, 26, 32 and 38 North Westfield Street subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

4/2/15

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN FEATURE YOUR BUSINESS AS A

"Local Business Profile"

Call John at 413-786-7747

Buzzin' from Town to Town



Classifieds

Turley Publications' Community Marketplace ♦ www.turley.com ♦ Call us toll free at 1-800-824-6548

For Sale



A public service announcement presented by your community paper

ANTIQUE AND PERIOD chairs – Restored with new woven seats – Many styles and weaves available. Call (413)267-9680.

Estate Sale

ESTATE SALE - sofa, loveseat, formal Victorian livingroom set, pool table, chairs, tables, misc furniture, outdoor furniture, china, bakeware, too many items to list. April 2, 3, and 4th from 10-2 at 75 Christopher Lane, Feeding Hills

The Deadline
to Submit
Classified
Line Ads is
Friday at Noon



Tag Sale

TAG SALE- THE Concerned Citizens for Animals huge tag sale is set for Friday, April 10, 8:30 to 4pm and Saturday, April 11, 8:30 to 1pm. The new location for the tag sale is the Wachogue Congregational Church, 80 Arvilla Street, Springfield in the east Forest Park section on the corner of Roosevelt Ave. and Arvilla Street.

Concerned Citizens for Animals offers assistance to financially needy pet owners to spay/neuter their cat or dog.

CCA depends solely on donations and monies from their fund raising tag sales to provide help with these much needed medical procedures. For information to donate items, call Susan @ **782-9006**. All proceeds will help dogs and cats in need right here in Western Massachusetts. Pet food donations appreciated.

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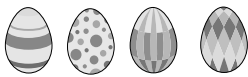
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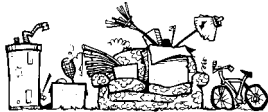
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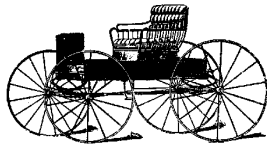


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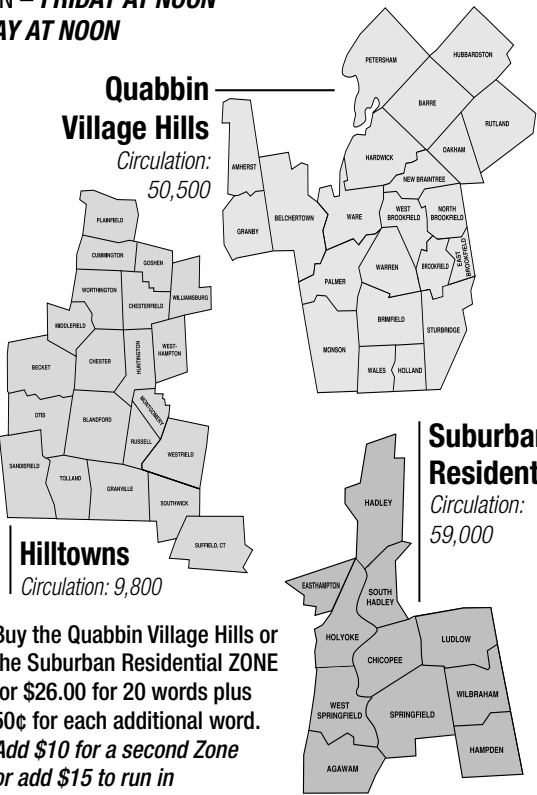
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In The Classroom



Benjamin Schiff, left, and Daniel Maly work on computer programming at a meeting of the AHS Programming Team. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Programming Team members Paul Hotaling, left, and Matthew Plumador.

AHS wins programming tournament

A computer programming team from Agawam High School won first place in a regional competition last month. Agawam took top honors by solving six out of seven challenges at the Western New England University 30th annual Invitational High School Programming Contest on March 18. This was the third year in a row that an Agawam team was the top team at the WNEU competition. At the competition, students are given a set of seven math-related word problems that they have to solve by completing effective computer programs. Each problem is progressively more difficult than the previous one. For instance, in 2011, the first problem asked students to write a computer program that would compute golf handicaps when given a set of scores and course ratings — a relatively simple mathematical operation. The sixth problem, however,

asked students to write a program that would alphabetize up to 50 words in an imaginary language where the letters follow a different sequence, with the sequence and the words to be provided as inputs. Teams had four hours to complete the seven problems, using one of several different programming languages. Agawam entered two teams this year: a Java team, which won the tournament, and a C++ team. In total, 12 teams competed, representing eight different schools. South Hadley won second place, with three problems solved; Minnechaug took third with two problems solved. The eight-member Agawam High School programming club meets for about an hour each week from late October to March. Its faculty advisor is Matt Stinson, the school's computer science teacher.

Doering pool raffle to support AHS scholarship

The Roberta G. Doering School PTO is selling \$2 raffle tickets for a brand new Summer Escapes, a 14-foot by 42-inch metal frame pool. The prize package includes filter cartridges, a skimmer plus filter and skimmer pump, ladder, cover and canopy. All proceeds will benefit two Doering PTO scholarships to be awarded to Agawam High School 2015 graduates. A winner will be chosen Thursday, April 9. Participants need not be present to win.

Cash will be accepted or checks made payable to Doering School PTO. To enter, print name, phone, email address, mailing address and number of tickets and send, with payment, to Doering School, PTO Pool Raffle, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001. All information will be written on the ticket(s) and entered into the raffle. A receipt will be mailed as proof of purchase. For more information, email doering-pt@gmail.com.

Boys & Girls Club offering vacation childcare

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Boys & Girls Club of West Springfield, 615 Main St., will offer a full day of childcare for Good Friday on April 3 and during the public school vacation week, April 20-24, for children in kindergarten through grade 8. Registration for the programs are currently being accepted. The club will be open Friday, April 3, and Monday through Friday, April 20-24, from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For those who are currently registered in the club's school-aged programs, the cost of the program is \$20 per day, per child. For guests, the cost is \$25 per day, per child. On Wednesday, April 22, there is a scheduled field trip to Flight Trampoline Park. The cost for that day is \$29 per child for current members and \$34 per child for others. Registration will be ongoing and space is limited. To download registration forms and parent handbooks for the licensed pro-

grams, visit www.wsbclub.org. The club provides lunch and afternoon snack daily during vacation and special days. Breakfast is not provided during vacation days. The lunch menu for the week can be found on at the website or picked up at the club when registering. Members have the option of bringing a lunch from home and the club encourages children with specific food allergies and / or diets to bring their own lunch. Lunch items are included with registration packet, on the website or at the membership desk. The daily schedule during vacation week will include activities in the Triple Play Sports Programs, gymnasium team and cooperative games, computer lab, arts and crafts, games room and field activities, weather permitting. For more information, contact the club at 413-736-831 or visit www.wsbclub.org.

AHS presents 'Murder at Klub Kaos' April 18

The Agawam High School band and color guard will host "Murder at Klub Kaos," a murder mystery dinner fundraiser to benefit the AHS band program. The one-night performance will be held Saturday, April 18, at St. John the Evangelist Church hall, 833 Main St., Agawam. The show will start at 6:30 p.m.; seating begins at 6 p.m. Now in its fifth year, the band's dinner theater-style show has become a favorite event of the local community. It's 1965, a time when jazz supper clubs were all the rage in the Windy City. Attendees are welcome to Klub Kaos, the hottest nightclub on the South Side of Chicago, owned and operated by the infamous crime boss Sam Getz. The play opens as band members are fighting to win a solo in one of the most important jazz concerts of all time. Tony "Three-Note" Tubati is murdered after winning the solo by playing "Mary Had a Little Lamb" using only three notes. The list of suspects includes the inn owner, mafia henchmen, several band members and the club owner's daughter, Rosie Getz, who also happens to be Tony's jilted girlfriend. Detectives Perry and Mason come in to solve the case, spoofing

1960 television shows such as "Dragnet" and "Get Smart." The original three-act play will be performed while guests enjoy a home-cooked ziti and meatball dinner complete with salad, bread, dessert and beverages. Band parents will be preparing the meal while student volunteers will be seating guests and serving the meal. The play was created and written by Garrett Diduk, senior band president; Ashley Gage, senior drum major; and Jodi Albertson, AHS Band Parent Association president. Under Albertson's direction, about a dozen band and color guard members have been meeting over the past few months to produce, rehearse and promote this spring fundraiser. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and children. Two tickets may be purchased for a discounted price of \$25 or purchase a table of 10 for \$100. To purchase tickets, contact Albertson at msjodia@aol.com or call Jolece Orsucci at 413-552-6854. Early ticket purchase is recommended, as the show is expected to be a sell-out.

In memory of Lexi



Students at Agawam Junior High School prepare signs for the seventh annual "Lace 'Em Up for Lexi" run-walk to be held at the school Saturday, May 30. The students are, from left, Jamie-Lyn Cavallon, McKenzie Lyne, Emma Thomson, Dorina Kodreanu, Carina Menovshchikova, Chloe Robinson, and Eyan Corridan. This fundraiser is in memory of Lexi Jagodowski, a former Agawam student, and will benefit "Griffin's Friends Children's Cancer Fund." For more information, visit "Lace 'Em Up for Lexi" on Facebook or Lexi96.org. SUBMITTED PHOTO

CAMPUS NOTES...

- Eastern Connecticut State University:** Brittany Bronner, of Agawam, participated in the Competitive Cheerleading Squad at Eastern Connecticut State University during the fall semester.
- Fairfield University:** Chloe Scherpa and Cristina Tangredi, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.
- Westfield State University:** Nicholas Taliceo, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

Spring Arts Festival to honor local veterans

Agawam High School Visual Art Department and Performing Art Department will present the annual Spring Arts Festival on Thursday, April 30, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The theme, "Hope for Humanity," will echo in the auditorium at 7 p.m. as the Agawam High School Honors Chorus, "Tonal Tenacity," the Chorale, Belle-Tones and Turn Up the Bass sing songs in harmony of inspiration. Sonja Funk is the director of the choral groups. The National Art Honors classes will display art from the year, including 40 military portraits of Agawam veterans.

Students worked with Gary Januelwicz, "Doktorjay007," in obtaining original military photos and for inspiration of veterans' stories. Under the direction of teachers Amber Waters and Deb Florek, students created pencil and acrylic portraits, which will be displayed. Several students entered a military art contest and are awaiting the results. Acrylic paintings, drawings, watercolors, sculptural pieces and mixed media works will be exhibited. For more information, call any of the teachers at 413-821-0530.

Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, April 3

THE SPRINGFIELD SCIENCE MUSEUM'S rooftop telescope will be open for public sky-gazing at 7:30 p.m., rain or shine. If it is overcast, a planetarium show will be presented in place of telescope viewing. Best suited for families with children ages eight and older, however younger children are welcome. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for children 17 and under. The museum is located at the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards St., off Chestnut St. Free parking available in the Edward St. lots. For more information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 318.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE ITALIAN CINEMA will continue at the Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, 56 Margaret St., Springfield with "Johnny Stecchino." Doors open at 6 p.m. and the movie will start at 7 p.m. The requested donation of \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members will include a choice of beverage and snack.

Saturday, April 4

AN EASTER EGG HUNT will take place at Hope Community Church, 152 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills at 1 p.m. Activities will feature an Easter craft, a puppet show, and music. Children in grades 5 and under are welcome to attend with accompanying adult. This event is free.

Tuesday, April 7

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield Anita Cooper, soprano, Noriyo Fokui, on flute, and Estela Olevisky on piano, at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments are provided after the performances. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Summer Ave., Springfield 01138.

Wednesday, April 8

THE AGAWAM COMMUNITY ARTISTS AND ARTISANS will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Featured guest is Steve Hamlin, who will work on a painting of an animal that's in progress, focusing on the features and other characteristic details such as hair, musculature and bone structure. Guests are welcome.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Reaching out to the community



During the Community Informational Fair held at Agawam High School on March 21, the GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club had many visitors at its table. Helping those visitors with information about the AJWC were, from left, Samantha Rudd, Kathy Mounemneh, Janine Iacolo and Christina Beauchemin. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Thursday, April 9

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Great Gardens of the Northeast" featuring Adriana O'Sullivan, landscaper designer, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

Friday, April 10

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL welcomes actor Jim Cooke to the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., at 7 p.m. as part of its Applause Series. Cooke will present his one-man show, "Cranky Yankees — All Together Now!" The library can be reached by phone at 413-789-1550. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

AN '80s THROWBACK DANCE will be held at the Westfield Elks Lodge, 56 Franklin Ave., at 7 p.m. Funds raised will support the Westfield Food Pantry, 101 Meadow St. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at the Food Pantry during business hours, online at www.westfieldfoodpantry.org or at the door. Tickets purchased online can be mailed or picked up from the food pantry.

THE CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR ANIMALS will host a benefit tag sale from Friday, April 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wachogue Congregational Church, 80 Arvilla St., Springfield. For information to donate items, call Susan at 413-782-9006. All proceeds will help dogs and cats in need in Western Massachusetts.

Sunday, April 12

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St. Presentation and discussion will include facts about the first gold coins struck by the U.S. Mint. A small auction will take place, refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

Tuesday, April 14

THE AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB will present "Annie Jr." Tuesday and Wednesday, April 14 and 15, at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Tickets, which are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and free for all those under the age of 5, will be sold at the door.

Friday, April 17

THE MEMORY LANE CHORUS will present two performances of the "Love Songs Concert" at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St.; one at 1:30 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. The concerts are free, but a donation will be taken to help with expenses.

TURKISH CULTURAL NIGHT at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., at 6 p.m. will feature video highlights of the culture of Turkey, Turkish appetizers and authentic coffee. For more information, call 413-789-1550 ext. 8855.

Saturday, April 25

ASTRONOMY DAY WILL BE HELD from 1 to 4 p.m.

at the Springfield Science Museum, on the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards St. The event is free with museum admission. For more information, call 413-263-6800 ext. 318.

Sunday, April 26

THE FEEDING HILLS WELLNESS CENTER, 567 Springfield St., will host a vendor fair, free to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A bake sale will take place during the fair, with all proceeds from the bake sale to benefit Alex Scatur, a student at AHS that was critically injured when hit by a car recently on Springfield Street. For information on how to donate baked goods, call 413-244-4660.

Thursday, April 30

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ART DEPARTMENT AND PERFORMING ART DEPARTMENT will present the annual Spring Arts Festival from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The National Art Honors classes will display art from the year including 40 military portraits of Agawam veterans. For more information, call 413-821-0530.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 413-786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

PEOPLE/ MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WEST SPRINGFIELD



Retired educators plan spring event



The board members of the Retired Educators Association of Massachusetts Chapter Hampden West met recently to finalize plans for the spring gathering scheduled for Thursday, May 14. Seated, from left, are Gerald Leblond of Belchertown, vice president; Alfred Pinciak of Chicopee, president; Stanley Kozikowski of Chicopee, treasurer; Janice Phillips of Westfield, membership chairperson; Geraldine Schilling-Nordal of Agawam, secretary; and Linda Skole, representing Crestview Country Club, where the event will be held. SUBMITTED PHOTO

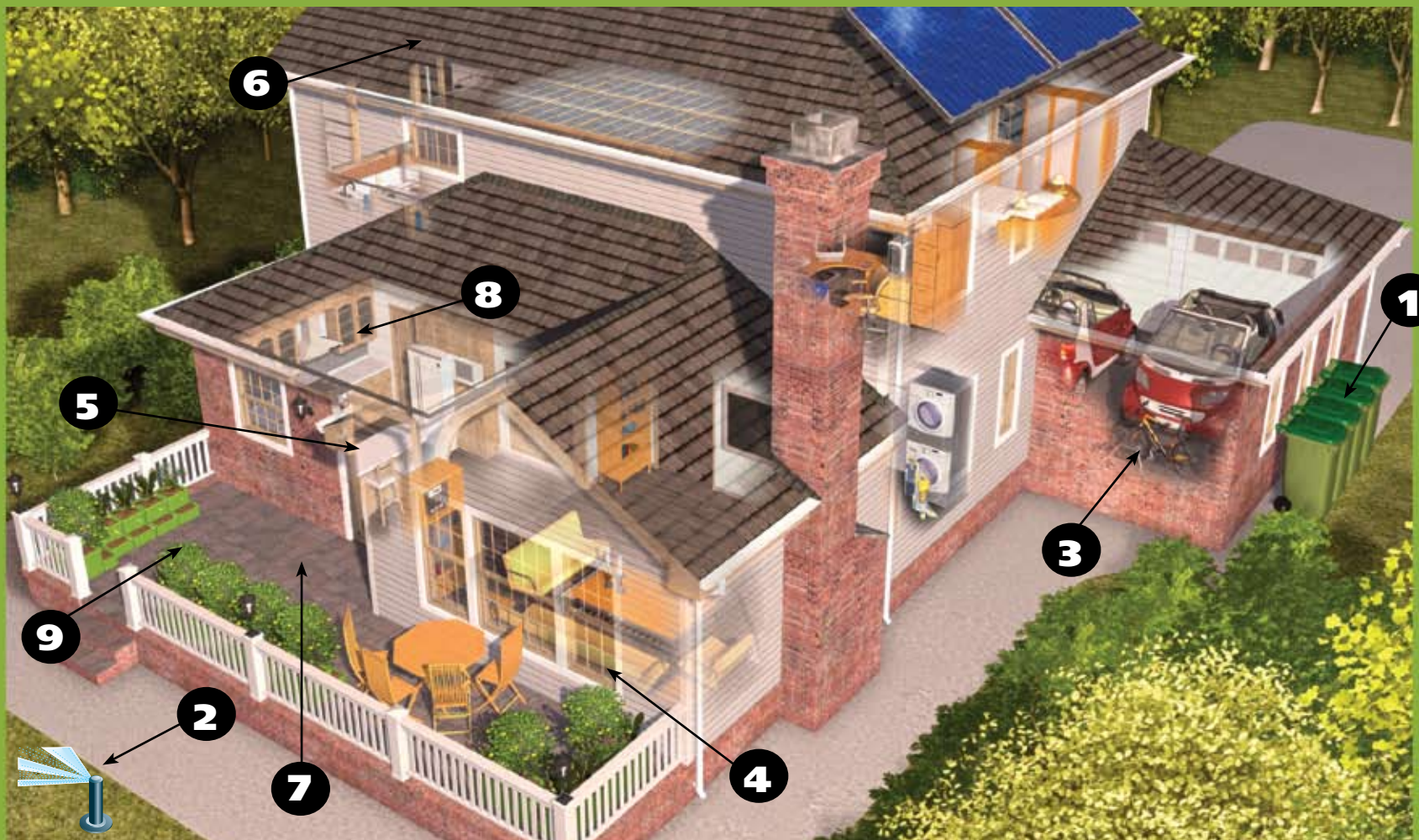
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